

Student Consultation Session #2 - 2005

30 September 2005

**Held in the Library Boardroom
410-330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg**

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

Student Leaders in Attendance:

CSB: Regrets
CFS: Liz Carlyle
BU: Regrets
UM: Amanda Aziz, Megan Gallant, Ron Marriott
UW: Kate Sjoberg
RRC: Regrets
ACC: Regrets
UCN: Regrets

COPSE Staff:

Dan Smith, Senior Policy Analyst

Introduction

The meeting came to order at 1:30 pm. Dan Smith welcomed participants. Louise Gordon sent her regrets as she was out of the province on business.

Review of Notes from Last Meeting

The notes from the previous meeting were reviewed, and no comments were made.

Discussion of Assessment of Last Year's Process

Dan Smith briefly discussed the formal assessment of last year's process, and noted that an important point raised was that the meetings last year were unfocused, and that student leaders believed it to be important to select topics and goals to work on for 2005/06.

COPSE Estimates Process

The Estimates process was reviewed in detail, from the letter of instruction to the point where the Council submitted its presentation to government for consideration in the budget process.

Student leaders were particularly interested in the criteria by which COPSE assessed the information that it received. Dan Smith indicated that there are no formal criteria that are used beyond the instructional letter because the various different institutions differ significantly in size and mandate. It is difficult to place such diverse institutions into one analytical framework.

A discussion occurred about the action taken regarding ancillary fees in summer 2005. Student leaders noted their disagreement with the characterization of the issue as a “funding emergency” and contest the need for the additional funding. As there was not sufficient information available at the meeting, this position was not discussed further. Dan Smith explained the legislative situation, particularly the fact that government does not have the same legislative controls over ancillary fees that it has regarding tuition.

Students asked about the meeting with Council, and were seeking a general way to frame their presentation. The Council’s strategic plan was discussed as a general conceptual framework which COPSE attends to when determining priorities and formulating recommendations to government regarding the allocation to the post-secondary sector.

Working Groups

The issue of working groups was discussed. Students expressed a desire to work with faculty and administration on a number of different issues. Dan Smith indicated that the structure of the working groups and their functioning are unknown, but that it could be investigated further.

Students made the following suggestions as to topics that could be subject to further examination by a working group:

- Strategic plan for post-secondary education in Manitoba: this would be a planning process to identify priorities into the future, policy gaps, and to discuss longer-term funding and tuition fee issues.
- Access and retention
- University – college credit transfer
- Fees and funding policy
- Rural and northern issues
- Governance (internal and external structures)
- International students
- Institutional competition/trade/privatization
- Aboriginal issues – discussion on this item suggested that this is a topic that is interwoven in all other topics as opposed to being a discrete issue.
- Funding process
- Research and statistical analysis

Dan Smith suggested that a list of 11 issues is ambitious and would challenge existing resources. He suggested that the group should work towards two or, at most, three issues to address where realistic progress could be made in a year.

Accordingly, student leaders focused on three issues:

1. Strategic planning for the system
2. University-college transfer
3. Fees and funding policy

The working group process and topics need to be taken back to members of the stakeholder groups to determine if they are acceptable.

Other

Student leaders expressed the desire to be on the agenda for the monthly meeting of COPSE, scheduled for the morning of 14 October 2005. Dan Smith committed to ensuring that students were placed on the agenda.

Next Meeting

In order to allow for effective consultation on the process and topics, students indicated that a meeting in November is desirable. Dan Smith indicated that he would set up a meeting for that timeframe.

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.

W:\educps1\Consultation\25 Aug 05\Notes from Meeting with Student Organizations - 29 Sept 05.doc

Student Consultation Session # 2 - 2005

AGENDA

Time

Friday 30 September 2005
1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Location

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

Participants

College and University Students' Association Leaders
COPSE Staff

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Review of Notes from Last Meeting
3. Discussion of Assessment of Last Year's Process
4. COPSE Estimates Process
5. Discussion of Goals/Topics for Future Meetings
6. Representation on Working Groups
7. Other
8. Next meeting
9. Adjournment