



Canadian Federation of Students and Central Student Association Timeline of Events

What is the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)?

The Canadian Federation of Students is the largest student organization in Canada that advocates for the rights and interests of students through providing services, lobbying at the provincial and federal levels, and running campaign on issues such as tuition fees, environmental sustainability, and safer campuses. The Central Student Association, the undergraduate student union at the University of Guelph, has been a member of the Canadian Federation of Students since the 1980's.

Board Meetings and University Correspondence

The membership dispute has been as been on the agenda of the Board of Directors for the last 4 years. Throughout this time we have maintained regular communication with the University of Guelph Administration.

Timeline

1972 – Guelph hosts the founding meeting of the Ontario Federation of Students (the predecessor organization to the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario)

1981 – The Canadian Federation of Students is formed.

1987 – Students at the University of Guelph vote in a successful referendum to join the Canadian Federation of Students National.

1988-1989 - CSA starts paying CFS National and Ontario membership fees.

2009 – Fall Semester – A group of University of Guelph undergraduate students initiated two petitions to hold a referendum on the continuation of their membership in the CFS.

2009 – Fall Semester – The referendums are refused by the CFS based on the fact that the petitions were not made or delivered in accordance with the CFS's Bylaws.

2010 – Winter Semester – The CSA, supporting the members pursuing a referendum, sought a Court Order to require the CFS to hold decertification referenda.

2010 – Winter Semester - Justice O'Connor of the Superior Court of Justice ruled that a referendum was to be held in accordance with rules as fixed by the Court, and not on

the basis of either the CFS-N, CFS-O or CSA bylaws. A committee made up of CFS, CFS-O and CSA members determined the rules. An arbitrator was appointed to break decision ties.

2010 – Winter Semester – The referendum ordered by the court was held on April 7-9th, 2010. 73.51% of voters choose to discontinue membership with the CFS. The CSA supported the side of the referendum advocating discontinuation of membership.

2011 – Summer Semester – The CFS is granted an appeal by the Ontario Court of Appeal, due to the fact that Justice O'Connor failed to provide any reasons for his decision. As the appeal was granted, the original Order to hold the referendum was of no force or effect and was no longer binding. Undergraduate students at Guelph continue to be members of the CFS at this time and are required to continue to pay their membership fees.

2011 – Fall Semester – The CSA Board of Directors strikes a “CFS Committee” to investigate the various options open to the CSA in terms of legal solutions to the CFS membership dispute.

2012 – Winter Semester – The CSA Board of Directors adopts the recommendation of the “CFS Committee” to pursue a negotiated settlement with the CFS.

2012 – Summer Semester – The CSA and the CFS fail to reach an agreement during mediated settlement negotiations.

2012 – The University of Guelph administration discontinues the collection of membership fees for the 2012-2013 year, against the wishes of the CSA, as communicated by the Executive, legal counsel, and the CSA Board of Directors. The CSA is now potentially liable for uncollected fees if there is no legal resolution to the dispute.

2012 – Summer Semester – The CSA Board of Directors examines all possible legal options open to the CSA, including re-filing against the CFS, refusing to pay membership fees, and attempting more settlement negotiations. The CSA decides to pursue more settlement negotiations. As of this time the CSA has spent over \$407 000 on legal costs related to the membership dispute.

2012 – Fall Semester – The CSA Board of Directors examines all possible legal options, with “CFS membership dispute sessions” at each Board meeting. The Board of Directors again decides to pursue settlement negotiations. The CSA Board of Directors decides to release a statement of facts to update the membership on the current unresolved legal situation.

2013 – Winter Semester – The CSA Board of Directors continues correspondence with the University of Guelph administration requesting the recollection of fees. Brenda Whiteside, Vice-President Student Affairs, and Mary Childs, the University of Guelph's

legal counsel, attend a CSA Board meeting to present the concerns of the Administration, which led to the Administration's decision to no longer collect the membership fees.

2013 - Winter Semester – The CSA Board of Directors passes a motion to file a joint application with the CFS, to put the issue the University's uncollected membership fees before a Judge in the Summer of 2013.

Please note the CSA has been in regular communication and participated meetings with the University Administration.