

Opening Plenary Agenda

Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, August 16 to Sunday, August 19, 2012 - Markham, Ontario

1. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

The Federation's Bylaws require that no less than one-half of the voting members of the Federation be present in person or by proxy at the general meeting for business to be conducted. A roll call of the voting members will be taken to determine attendance and to confirm quorum.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROXIES

A voting member that is unable to attend all or portions of a general meeting may appoint another voting member to act as its proxy for some or all the meeting, in accordance with Bylaw III. Any appointments will be announced at this time.

3. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER

The Plenary Speaker will be ratified at this time.

4. WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

5. RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Applications for membership in the Federation will be ratified at this time.

6. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

The plenary will consider the plenary agenda prepared by the Executive Committee. Changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

7. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

The plenary will consider the general meeting agenda. Changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

8. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The plenary will consider the minutes of the previous general meeting.

9. OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES

- a. Rules of Order and Plenary Procedures**
- b. Anti-Harassment Procedures for the General Meeting**
- c. Presentation by the Federation's Staff Relations Officer**

10. PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

- a. Ratification of Electoral Officer**
The Electoral Officer will be ratified at this time.
- b. Overview of Election Schedule and Procedures**
The Electoral Officer will provide an overview of the election schedule and procedures.

11. STRIKING OF PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEES

- a. Striking of Plenary Sub-Committees**
The plenary will strike the following plenary sub-committees:
 - Budget Committee;

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- Campaigns and Government Relations Committee;
- Organizational and Services Development Committee; and
- Policy Review and Development Committee.

b. Adoption of Committee Agendas

The plenary will consider the plenary sub-committee agendas prepared by the Executive Committee. Any changes or additions to the agendas may be proposed at this time.

12. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS SERVED WITH DUE NOTICE

a. Motions Submitted by Member Locals

The following motions were served by member locals with notice and shall be considered at the meeting.

2012/08:N01 MOTION

Local 92/

Whereas at the national level, the Canadian Federation of Students currently utilizes the College Caucus to create a forum for discussion and advocacy relating to issues relevant to College students; and

Whereas the provincial component, the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, requires a minimum of three members to create a Caucus; and

Whereas with the recent acceptance of the prospective membership of Thames Students Incorporated in May 2012, there currently exists three College members of the Canadian Federation of Students; therefore

Be it resolved that a College Caucus be created to actively promote and act on issues relevant to Ontario college students.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Organizational and Services Development Committee.

2012/08:N02 MOTION

Local 27/

Whereas the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) is meant to provide a right of access to information under the control of institutions in accordance with the principles that information should be available to the public; and

Whereas in its current form FIPPA requires the individual making the request for access to pay fees for research, preparation and shipping, and furthermore enables the institution to assess this fee and to decide whether or not to waive it; and

Whereas these fees are regularly far in excess of what is reasonable, given contemporary search technology; and

Whereas the fees represent a de facto barrier to the access of information, dissuading many individuals from making or following through on requests for information, and therefore effectively nullifying the utility of the act as a means of enforcing transparency; and

Whereas the current fee structure imposes no incentives on institutions to comply with FIPPA requests in a timely and cost-effective fashion; therefore

Be it resolved that a working group be established to examine ways of reforming the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), specifically to remove or reduce financial barriers to information access.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N03 MOTION
Local 27/

Whereas the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) is a publicly funded body charged with bringing policy recommendations for the improvement of post-secondary education in Ontario based upon evidence-based research; and

Whereas HEQCO has, since its establishment in 2005, been the subject of vociferous criticism from the Ontario College and University Faculty Association (OCUFA), the Canadian Federation of Students, and others based upon both the poor quality of its research and the apparently ideological rather than evidence-based motivation of its policy recommendations; and

Whereas HEQCO has shown no interest in reforming its practices by, for example, adopting standard academic research quality practices such as external peer review; and

Whereas HEQCO has recently been accused of pressuring researchers contracted through Queen's University to change a report so as to alter its political impact, which the researchers refused to do; and

Whereas HEQCO nevertheless published a report with the politicized changes, under the researchers' own names, and with a disclaimer claiming that the conclusions therein are solely those of the authors and do not reflect the opinions of HEQCO; and

Whereas the contract included language whereby the researchers waived moral rights to their work, thus making HEQCO's manipulation of the research legal; and

Whereas this incident has been condemned by OCUFA, which has called for an independent review of HEQCO's research practices, stating that until such a review has been conducted, HEQCO research cannot be trusted to be unbiased; and

Whereas OCUFA has further condemned the practice of waiving moral rights, indicating that this contractual practice puts Queen's University in the position of participating in a serious breach of research ethics, especially as the researchers involved had not been made aware of this aspect of the contract, and calling for a thorough independent internal investigation; and

Whereas the post-secondary sector, along with numerous other publicly funded sectors, are facing substantial cuts in funding; and

Whereas HEQCO costs Ontario taxpayers \$5 million per year; therefore

Be it resolved that an open letter be written to HEQCO president Harvey Weingarten and Glen Murray, the Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities, condemning HEQCO's manipulation of research and endorsing OCUFA's demand for a thorough independent review of HEQCO's research practices, including the adoption of external peer review and elimination of language waiving the moral rights of contracted researchers; and

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Be it further resolved that failing meaningful response on the part of HEQCO or the Government of Ontario regarding these suggestions, the recommendation for HEQCO's public funding to be eliminated be renewed, with the money to be used to offset the cost of tuition fees; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar open letters.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N04 MOTION

Local 27/

Whereas Thames Students Incorporated (TSI) was incorporated in 1978 to ensure representation for students at St. Clair College's Chatham campus; and

Whereas the administration of St. Clair College recently and unilaterally announced that TSI was to be merged with the Student Representative Council, which represents the two Windsor campuses of St. Clair College; and

Whereas St. Clair College administration had TSI student representatives and staff escorted out of their offices without sufficient notice, and blocked TSI from accessing its funds; and

Whereas only a referendum of its members can legitimately decide whether TSI can merge with another body; and

Whereas negotiations continue over the fate of TSI; and

Whereas TSI is a prospective member local of the Canadian Federation of Students; therefore

Be it resolved that the Thames Students Incorporated (TSI) be supported in its negotiations with St. Clair College administration; and

Be it further resolved that the a letter of support be sent to TSI board members; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to likewise send letters of support to TSI board members.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N05 MOTION

Local 27/

Whereas the Federation is open and accountable to its members; and

Whereas members and member locals use the website of the Ontario component of the Federation to get information about the Federation; and

Whereas the Federation's policies contain the positions of the Federation, which could serve as a useful reference for government and the media; and

Whereas the Federation already includes its Bylaws on its website; therefore

Be it resolved that the policy manuals be posted on the Federation website.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Organizational and Services Development Committee.

2012/08:N06 MOTION
Local 27/

Whereas students continue to suffer from the unequal power relationship that exists between them and administrators in the post-secondary education sector; and

Whereas students, faculty and staff could benefit from an advocate with real power within the Ontario government; and

Whereas the Ontario Ombudsman office exists to investigate complaints about Ontario public services; and

Whereas the Ontario Ombudsman office currently does not oversee Ontario municipalities, universities, school boards, or hospitals (MUSH); and

Whereas the Ontario Ombudsman office itself recognizes the need for it to cover the MUSH sector; and

Whereas the Federation has advocated in lobby documents that the Ontario Ombudsman office have jurisdiction over the MUSH sector; therefore

Be it resolved that the position that the Ontario Ombudsman office have jurisdiction over the MUSH sector be endorsed; and

Be it further resolved that an open letter be written to the Ontario government stressing the need for the Ontario Ombudsman office to have oversight over the MUSH sector; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar letters, with examples of how their members could benefit from this oversight.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N07 MOTION
Local 84/

Whereas the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) provides temporary health care coverage to approximately 128,000 refugees living within Canada; and

Whereas the federal government announced cuts to the IFHP for refugees which will result in poorer health outcomes, increased health care costs and a threat to public safety, effective June 30 2012; and

Whereas the proposed changes by the federal government will no longer cover necessary medication like insulin for many refugees and will deny some refugees access to physicians; and

Whereas prenatal care for pregnant women, child care and access to mental health would also be stripped for some refugees; and

Whereas Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Jason Kenney, has been focusing on divisive politics pitting tax-paying Canadians against refugee claimants to justify the cuts; and

Whereas despite the government's attempt to 'clarify' language around the cuts, many refugees will no longer have medications for serious conditions such as diabetes and heart disease unless needed to prevent or treat an illness that is a public safety concern; and

Whereas refugee health care should be viewed as a health and human right issue as opposed to an immigrant and economic issue; and

Whereas it is inhumane to deny some of the most vulnerable in Canada their human right to basic and necessary health care; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter be written to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Jason Kenney denouncing the cuts to health care for refugees living within Canada; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar letters to Minister Jason Kenney; and

Be it further resolved that a letter of support be written to Canadian Doctors for Refugee Care for their important work around opposing these cuts and supporting the equitable treatment of refugees; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write similar letters of support to Canadian Doctors for Refugee Care.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N08 MOTION

Local 68/

Whereas there are more than 40,000 international students studying in public colleges and universities in Ontario; and

Whereas according to Government of Canada estimates, international students contribute \$2 billion to the Ontario economy annually through living and going to school in Ontario; and

Whereas international student tuition fee rates are 3-4 times higher than domestic student rates; and

Whereas a recent survey showed that a majority of Ontarians were not in favour of providing support for international students; therefore

Be it resolved that a public awareness campaign on international students be developed.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N09 MOTION

Local 68/

Whereas the province of Québec has long had the country's most accessible system of post-secondary education by providing free college education and low university tuition fees; and

Whereas the government of Québec has planned to increase tuition fees by 75% over the next five years; and

Whereas students in Québec have been on strike for over four months in opposition to tuition fee hikes; and

Whereas in response to a growing strike movement Bill 78 was adopted by the Assemblée nationale du Québec on May 18, 2012; and

Whereas Bill 78 represents a draconian, repressive attack on dissent and criminalizes the right of assembly and encourages police officers to act with increased brutality and impunity; and

Whereas the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Amnesty International, the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner, legal practitioners, artists, editorialists, intellectuals and personalities from all walks of life have denounced this attack on the fundamental and inalienable rights of freedom of expression, association and demonstration; and

Whereas students from across the country need to continue to support students in Québec in their important fight to defend accessible education in the province; therefore

Be it resolved that efforts by Québec students to maintain an affordable, accessible post-secondary education system be supported; and

Be it further resolved that Law 78 be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to Premier Charest condemning police violence against demonstrators and encouraging his government to end the strikes through a fair and negotiated settlement; and

Be it further resolved that a donation of \$3,000 be made to the independent legal defense fund to help students in Québec with strike efforts; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write statements in opposition to, and take action against, Law 78.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N10 MOTION
Local 68/

Whereas physical registration forms are currently used to register participants for Federation meetings and the Skills Symposium; and

Whereas the introduction of an online system could simplify and improve the registration process; and

Whereas a variety of online registration tools and systems exist that could be used by the Federation; therefore

Be it resolved that the feasibility of an online registration system for meetings and the Skills Symposium be investigated.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Organizational and Services Development Committee.

2012/08:N11 MOTION
Local 41/

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students is one of the founding members of the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition (CYCC), a coalition working towards a just climate future, and has therefore committed to support its initiatives; and

Whereas scientifically verified, human-induced, climate change is already having significant impacts on the livelihoods of people around the world and the current Canadian government's policy choices will exacerbate rather than mitigate climate change; and

Whereas those already affected by systemic marginalization, such as Indigenous people, people with low incomes, women, and youth, are the same people who are most negatively affected by climate change, yet contributed the least to it; and

Whereas climate change is also a student issue because many students are young people who will need to deal with the affects of climate change and for whom the creation of a future where green and just jobs are the norm is integral; and

Whereas in 2009 CYCC held the first Powershift Canada conference, which had almost 1000 youth from across the country, many of whom were members of the Federation, in attendance, created an unparalleled space for participants to network and develop skills for collective action towards climate justice; and

Whereas Powershift Canada is being organized again for October 2012 and hopes to reach more young people, grow relationships between different movements for social and environmental justice, and give tools to all participants for collective action and social mobilization; therefore

Be it Resolved that the Powershift Canada 2012 conference occurring in October 2012 be supported; and

Be it further resolved that that member locals be encouraged to both provide support and bring members to Powershift Canada 2012.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N12 MOTION
Local 49/

Whereas students across Ontario are facing a dangerous, emboldened challenge to the right of accessible, affordable, quality, public post-secondary education (PSE) including massive increases in tuition fees and ancillary fees, systemic Federal and Provincial underfunding of PSE, extortionate student loans, privatization of our campuses, increased corporate and military role in PSE, and attacks on students' democratic control of education and right to organize on campus; and

Whereas students in Ontario are facing the highest tuition fees in the country; and

Whereas youth and students across Ontario are also suffering record and sustained high youth unemployment, poverty minimum wages and low wages in general, as well as escalating high costs of living; and

Whereas more and more people, especially Aboriginal peoples, women, people from racialized communities and working-class families in general are now being denied access to PSE in Canada and Ontario; and

Whereas international students are also being exploited as 'cash-cows' by university administrations; and

Whereas student debt across Canada is at a crisis level, approaching 15 billion dollars; and

Whereas this situation amounts to an aggressive and unprecedented attack on accessible education that has been accelerated by the global economic crisis and austerity budgets; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) has a longstanding policy of support for the freezing, reduction and ultimately the full "elimination of tuition and other incidental user fees"; and

Whereas mass mobilization and cooperation between students and other movements, especially labour, is the only way forward that can effectively defeat

corporate and government roll-backs of accessibility and win accessible education; and

Whereas hundreds of thousands of students in Chile and Québec have mobilized over the last year, despite harsh police repression, by using the strongest tactic of the students to put moral pressure on the government – a student strike – and in doing so, have shown that a broad, mass, united struggle and escalating mobilizations that goes beyond lobbying, media releases and isolated local battles is the most effective strategy of the students; and

Whereas a key part of the escalating mobilization strategy in Québec has been campus “mobilization committees” which operate under the direction of General Assemblies and student unions, but are made up of the grassroots membership and focus on further mobilization of the general membership; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation adopt an all-Province action plan of escalating mass mobilization with the aim of building a broad and powerful coalition for public, accessible education and a freeze and reduction in fees that works, that includes the Federation, non-Federation member students’ unions, as well as the Ontario Federation of Labour, local labour councils, other labour unions, Aboriginal, women’s, (im)migrant, queer and other community organizations, and other allies in order to mobilize our membership in co-operation with our allies; and

Be it further resolved that a “solidarity and action tour” be organized in order to bring Chilean and Québec student unionists from the Chilean Federation of Students as well as the Québec CEGEP and University student Federations and especially the CLASSE or ASSÉ (who have been leading the Québec Student Strike) to speak to public mass meetings on member local and non-member campuses across Ontario; and

Be it further resolved that the resources be provided to member locals working toward building broad-based “mobilizing committees” that are active year round, which are focused on winning the membership to united and militant action; and

Be it further resolved that mobilizing committees bring forward a democratic debate around the demand of free education on and off campus and the need for the unity of all students, labour and other allies; and

Be it further resolved that the goal of this action plan be to lay the ground work for an Ontario-wide series of Days of Action, followed by province-wide student strikes, with strike mandates voted on by member locals at General Assemblies, to pressure the Ontario government to freeze and reduce tuition fees and expand accessibility.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N13 MOTION
Local 49/

Whereas the Federation has created many important fact sheets on issues for many years; and

Whereas several of the Federation's fact sheets are over 10 years old; therefore

Be it resolved that each fact sheet still in use be reviewed, and

Be it further resolved that a task force be formed to review and update factsheets that require it; and

Be it further resolved that each updated fact sheet be updated on a regular basis;
and

Be it further resolved that all fact sheets be added into one document to be
distributed to member locals at the next Ontario General Meeting.

**It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Organizational and
Services Development Committee.**

2012/08:N14 MOTION
Local 49/

Whereas the struggle for accessible, quality and free post-secondary education
requires the mass mobilization of students across Ontario; and

Whereas mobilization requires a strong communication and educational strategy
to combat corporate media and government misinformation; and

Whereas publications produced by student federations in Québec, such as
Ultimatum, have proven very effective in organizing campuses during the 2012
student strike; therefore

Be it resolved that an Ontario-wide monthly print publication or newspaper or
magazine be established that is mass distributed on campuses on the model of
Ultimatum in Québec.

**It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and
Government Relations Committee.**

2012/08:N15 MOTION
Local 99/

Whereas the Ontario Work Study Program (OWSP) has provided students in
financial need the opportunity to help pay the high cost of attending college or
university by working on campus; and

Whereas the OWSP let students work flexible hours and gave students more
relevant work experiences that helped balance campus engagement, their
academics, and paying for their education; and

Whereas the OWSP created positions in both academic and administrative
departments that were critical to advancing the research and services offered by
universities and colleges; and

Whereas the removal of all provincial funding of the program will exacerbate the
already high youth unemployment rates; and

Whereas institutions have student run services that depend on the OWSP to
operate; and

Whereas institutions are struggling to fully-fund the program internally, which will
lead to less OWSP positions and may lead to the elimination of the program
entirely; therefore

Be it resolved that the removal of the \$9.1 million provincial transfer to institutions
for the OWSP be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that letters be written to the Minister of Training, Colleges,
and University and the Minister of Economic Development and Innovation calling
for the reinstatement of provincial funding of the program; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to coordinate local lobbying efforts with faculty associations and the administration on their respective campus.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N16 MOTION
Local 99/

Whereas Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, Glen Murray released a discussion paper to explore how to reform the post secondary education sector; and

Whereas the discussion paper has very similar themes to the 3 cubed report leaked months prior that contained extremely problematic recommendations; and

Whereas the discussions around online learning, year round learning, and 3 year degrees seems more about finding solutions to the underfunding of post-secondary education rather than improving the sector; and

Whereas the application of 3 years degree have the possibility of rushing students through undergrad without equipping them with the necessary skills needed to compete in an international level; and

Whereas 3 years degrees may not be recognized by the rest of Canada and the US; and

Whereas online learning replacing in-class experiences will lead to a lower quality of education and less time for professors to meet and mentor students; and

Whereas year-round learning is problematic because of the need of students to work in the summer to pay for their education, and the use of university facilities for research work and conferences in the summer; and

Whereas entrepreneurial and experiential learning should not consist of opening up universities to corporations or business; therefore

Be it resolved a submission be prepared and consultations be attended to address the problematic nature of the discussion paper and to provide recommendations on how to better develop the postsecondary sector; and

Be it further resolved that as a part of the submission, the importance of having an understanding of equity and an understanding of how to create an equitable environment in society as a learning outcome in postsecondary institutions be highlighted; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to also make submissions and attend consultations on the discussion paper.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N17 MOTION TO AMEND OPERATIONAL POLICY
Local 99/

Whereas systems of oppression, forms of discrimination and stereotyping create barriers, which is the root of why advocacy work is important; and

Whereas anti-oppression workshops allow folks the space to have dialogue and a better understanding of these barriers so that we can create more equitable environments; and

Whereas the Federation is committed to creating a more equitable environment through having a variety of caucus and constituency meetings; and

Whereas there is a possibility that not everyone has a complete understanding and knowledge as to why these spaces have been created; and

Whereas spaces sometimes themselves could re-enact systems of power and privilege; and

Whereas anti-oppression workshops will better prepare member locals for the meeting so there is more comfort in participation; and

Whereas these workshops will also better prepare member locals for the work they will be doing at their respective campuses; therefore

Be it resolved that the Workshop/Speakers section of the General Meetings Operational Policy be amended to read:

WORKSHOPS/SPEAKERS

General Meetings agendas shall include the following, where possible:

- One current students issues-based workshop;
- One workshop dealing with issues of social justice; and
- One anti-oppression workshop, to take place before opening plenary.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Organizational and Services Development Committee.

2012/08:N18 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 98/

Be it resolved that the Issues Policy on “Food Services” be amended to include the following:

Fair Wages and Working Conditions in Food Service Operations

Preamble

Food Service Providers maintain operations through the hard efforts of their workers. Many workers in the food services industry, working for such corporations such as Chartwells, Aramark or Sodexo are working in non-unionized conditions with un-fair wages and little to no benefits.

Policy

The Federation Supports:

- Safe and secure working conditions in campus food service operations;
- Fair wages and benefits packages for all on campus food service workers;
- Job security in all levels of employment; and
- Unionized working environments with strong collective agreements.

The Federation Opposes:

- Unsafe working conditions for all workers in campus food service operations; and
- Part-time only employment in food service operations.

Student-Run Food Operations

Preamble

Many post-secondary institutions are governed by multi-year exclusivity contracts between the university/college administration and food service

providers. These exclusivity contracts contravene the autonomy of students' unions that wish to operate food services to promote inexpensive, diverse, culturally specific, fair trade and/or organic food options on campus.

The Federation Supports:

- Student owned and operated businesses that include but are not limited to pubs, -restaurants, convenience stores, canteens and cafes;
- Student union autonomy from exclusivity arrangements signed by post-secondary institutions; and
- The use of fair trade products for student-run operations.

The Federation Opposes:

- Lack of food options available on campus; and
- The imposition of food service exclusivity arrangements on students' unions operations.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

2012/08:N19 MOTION
Local 109/

Whereas international students have become an increasingly important population within Ontario post-secondary institutions; and

Whereas it has become the prerogative of groups such as the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada to exponentially increase international students enrollment at post-secondary institutions; and

Whereas the Federal government has attempted to encourage international students to stay in Canada after the completion of their degree through new policies such as shortening the application and renewal process for visa and work permits; and

Whereas international students contribute significantly to the economy but are excluded from essential services and social supports guaranteed to domestic students such as the Ontario Health Insurance Plan; and

Whereas public opinion of Ontarians on the treatment of international students has never been fully gauged; and

Whereas xenophobia, racism and stereotypes towards international students have been tolerated and perpetuated within Canadian and Ontario society; and

Whereas the opinions of international students on their living and academic situations within Canada must be sought out and critically analyzed; therefore

Be it resolved that a Task Force on International Student Issues be initiated to investigate and document the major issues pertaining to international student experiences and services on university and college campuses, in order to develop educational campaigns, encourage international students involvement within the communities they inhabit, and to actively seek out equitable treatment for international students; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to hold Task Force hearings on each of their campuses and invite all members of their campus and local community to take part in the Task Force.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

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2012/08:N20 MOTION

Local 24/

Whereas marginalized communities such as, but not limited to, women, queer and trans, disabled, racialized and international students are disproportionately impacted by high tuition fees, tuition fee hikes, underfunding and budget cuts; and

Whereas the Federation recognizes that chronic underfunding and the burden of high tuition fees has had a particular effect on marginalized students, perpetuating existing inequalities and leaving many students without fair access to a college or university education; and

Whereas the Federation seeks to ensure that post-secondary education is accessible, equitable and inclusive to all students, including the aforementioned marginalized communities and students; and

Whereas students in Ontario pay the highest tuition fees in the country and receive the lowest per student funding; and

Whereas there is currently minimal research done into the impact of high tuition fees on marginalized communities and students; and

Whereas specific research on the impact of tuition fees on marginalized communities and students would shed light on, and help further the fight for, accessible education; therefore

Be it resolved that comprehensive research on the impact of tuition fees on marginalized communities and students in the province be produced; and

Be it further resolved that outreach materials to be utilized by member locals and distributed on campuses be produced.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N21 MOTION

Local 24/

Whereas the Ontario Employment Standards Act (ESA) regulates paid employment relationships between employers and employees, and outlines workplace legislation on items included but not limited to minimum wage, total hours of work, vacation time, sick leave, and meal breaks; and

Whereas unpaid internships are excluded from the Employment Standards Act (ESA) and therefore have no legislated form of workplace protection for employers and employees; and

Whereas an increasing amount of students are accepting positions as unpaid interns due to the unavailability of full-time paid work, or in hope of gaining experience with an organization to increase their chances of being offered a full-time position in the future; and

Whereas unpaid internships have become a form of free labour whereby an organization benefits directly from the work of the intern, often by requiring them to do the same work as part-time or full-time employees; and

Whereas unpaid internships fail to acknowledge that such positions are meant to supplement students existing knowledge of their field through experience in the industry, and not displace or duplicate the existing work of employees within an organization; and

Whereas unpaid internships rarely define the period of time upon which the internship terminates, or the expected period of time under which the student must remain as an intern in order to fulfill graduation requirements or be promoted to a paid position; and

Whereas students are often unaware of the expectations of an unpaid internships, including whether or not it will benefit their future career due to lack of provisions surrounding such positions and information provided in job postings; and

Whereas the guidelines for internships set out by the Ontario Ministry of Labour are vague and generally overlooked by employers, making it difficult for students to raise concerns over their working environment or enforce the rules governing the validity of these positions; and

Whereas there is a clear disparity between internships targeting students from engineering, computer science, technology, or business management programs that are usually paid positions, compared to internships targeting students in design, communication, art, fine art, or marketing programs that tend to be unpaid; and

Whereas it is becoming an expectation for students in programs such as design, communication, art, fine art, or marketing programs to fulfill an internship position after graduation in order to gain experience in their field before moving to paid work; and

Whereas the Canadian Association of Career Educators & Employees, an umbrella organization representing career services across campuses, has set out guidelines to discourage career centres from using unpaid internships; therefore

Be it resolved that internships and positions of similar nature that provide no form of payment to students for hours worked as set out by the Employment Standards Act (ESA), be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that a campaign be developed with the ultimate goal of banning unpaid internships that should otherwise be paid positions of employment, and for the Ontario Employment Standards Act (ESA) be amended to include regulations for internship positions; and

Be it further resolved that organizations such as the Canadian Association of Career Educators and Employers (CACEE) be connected with to produce campaign materials and lobby for more regulation and monitoring of unpaid internships at college and university campuses.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N22 MOTION
Local 24/

Whereas the Ontario Executive Committee has a responsibility to fairly and inclusively represent a diverse membership of students while implementing the directives and campaigns adopted by members at general meetings; and

Whereas the Federation, its member locals, and the Ontario Executive Committee seek to operate within inclusive, equitable and anti-oppressive frameworks; and

Whereas the existence of oppressive frameworks, both systemic and individual, hinders progress and unity within the student movement, limits membership participation and prevents inclusive organizing; and

Whereas the Federation is committed to providing a common framework within which students can communicate, exchange information and share experience, skills and ideas; and

Whereas anti-oppression training can be utilized to provide member locals with the needed tools and resources to create more inclusive frameworks and safer spaces; therefore

Be it resolved that anti-oppression training be provided at the first Ontario Executive Committee meeting of each term; and

Be it further resolved that Ontario Executive Committee members be required to attend the provided anti-oppression training; and

Be it further resolved that the anti-oppression training include, but not be limited to, discussions on power and privilege, deconstruction of oppressive language and behavior, inclusive decision-making, implementation of anti-racist frameworks, accessible and anti-ablest organizing, and successful ally building.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Organizational and Services Development Committee.

2012/08:N23 MOTION

Local 19/

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students is a long-standing party in the opposition to Access Copyright's predatory actions over the past several years, including initially proposed fee increases, the Interim Tariff and most recently through news releases condemning the actions of the University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario in their agreements with Access Copyright which prefigure the current model agreement; and

Whereas the Model Agreement reached by the AUCC and Access Copyright do not properly account for upcoming changes to Canadian copyright law through Federal Bill C-11, including expansions of fair dealing provisions regarding education, rules regarding inter-library loans and digital reproduction which are of benefit to academia in general but most particularly students; and

Whereas the Model Agreement is entirely un-needed with the sheer volume of direct agreements between institutions and publishers, along with the expansion of open access publishing, making this agreement irrelevant to the current dynamics of academic publishing; and

Whereas the Model Agreement places the weight of the burden upon students for the licensing uses of the whole post-secondary institution, which is extremely objectionable, particularly in light of the estimated smaller size of Access Copyright's actual repertoire of copyrighted materials; and

Whereas the current increase in fee from \$3.38 to \$26.00 will increase the burden of debt and hardship upon students for negligible value in terms of returns in course packages and others products; and

Whereas many of the legal protections which are claimed to be afforded for students or their universities regarding matters of copyright by this agreement are either no longer an issue (such as linking to copyrighted materials) or extremely limited; and

Whereas funds gained from the fees associated with the model agreement serve to undermine all future progressive reform of copyright in Canada by empowering Access Copyright, which has long lobbied against many of the changes to copyright legislation such as expansions to fair dealing provisions; therefore

Be it resolved that component-specific materials be produced to campaign aggressively against the Model License and Access Copyright as a collective, both in the immediate future and for the long-term prospect of fighting license renewals; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation send and encourage locals to also send letters of approval to all those universities that have currently abandoned Access Copyright's model license; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation send and encourage locals to send letters of disapproval to all those universities which have currently agreed to the Access Copyright model license or any variant of it, including those produced before the creation of the model license; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation send and encourage locals to send letters to the provincial government stating that the payment of the Access Copyright deals should not fall under the provincial ancillary fee protocol exemptions on the ground that students are not the only beneficiary of the deal and hence the University is not acting as a broker; and

Be it further resolved that research be conducted on other predatory copyright collectives which employ tactics akin to those of Access Copyright that may affect others areas of services provided by member locals regarding other mediums which are outside the purview of Access Copyright.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N24 MOTION
Local 19/

Whereas the Federation, nationally, has given notional support to the growth of departmental general assemblies throughout all member locals; and

Whereas the growth of member local's departmental general assemblies will provide greater transparency, accountability and engagement in the processes of all locals and the Federation as a whole; and

Whereas there is a need for materials and resources to bolster that support into action and substantive growth of departmental general assemblies and directly democratic structures, in general; therefore

Be it resolved that the creation and growth, in Ontario, of departmental general assemblies which are fully empowered to make real decisions within the structures of member locals be supported; and

Be it further resolved that materials and resources be produced that would encourage the creation of departmental general assemblies, discuss the merits of engagement in this manner and provide information regarding possible structures which would allow for departmental general assemblies to be smoothly integrated within Ontario member locals.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N25 MOTION

Local 19/

Whereas there are numerous policies of the Federation that cite one of our overarching goals as that of fully accessible, fully public education in Ontario and all of Canada; and

Whereas we face in this province and country an encroaching push towards harsher austerity plans for post-secondary education and society-at-large; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario views universities to be "publicly assisted" institutions and does not, within its most recent discussion paper on post-secondary education in the province, consider increased public funding - but instead relies on tuition fees to determine the balance of cost and quality of post-secondary education; and

Whereas there is a greater momentum than there has been in decades in this country for a push towards free post-secondary education, through the inspiring struggles of students in Quebec; and

Whereas existing campaigns regarding tuition fees require updating to reflect the harsher realities and new possibilities that stand before students in the Province of Ontario; therefore

Be it resolved that the existing "Drop Fees" campaign in Ontario be ended; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation re-purpose existing and conduct further research in preparation for a new campaign that highlights the Federation's call for an end to education fees, increased provincial funding to this sector and the true beginnings of public post-secondary education in Ontario; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation engage and encourage member locals to engage government in its discussion process that has begun through a recent discussion paper from the Ministry. However, the Federation must also engage and encourage member locals to engage in regular member mobilization according to the principles of this aforementioned campaign.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N26 MOTION

Local 19/

Whereas the Province currently funds PhDs for a maximum number of terms that is roughly aligned with the expected candidacy period; and

Whereas this period of time is funded by the Province because it reflects the period of time that the Province believes that a degree should last for the purpose of education; and

Whereas the work performed in a PhD after the candidacy period is spent performing research work in the capacity of a researcher; and

Whereas the above makes paying tuition fees during this post-candidacy period inappropriate for both domestic and international students; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation renew its focus upon the removal of tuition fees in this post-candidacy period as a short-term priority for graduate students in their lobbying of the Ontario Government.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

2012/08:N27 MOTION TO AMEND OPERATIONAL POLICY

Local 19/

Whereas from time to time discussions arise over the nature of possible student strikes in Ontario and there is a need for procedure to be implemented for the Federation in the possible event of such an action being taken within member locals' own governing structures or through that of the governing processes of the Federation, provincially or nationally; and

Whereas such procedure is to serve in the event of a student strike and to maximize our collective preparedness, but does not advocate nor deny the ability of member locals to take up this tactic; therefore

Be it resolved that the following Operational Policy on "Student Strikes" be adopted:

STUDENT STRIKES

The Federation shall allow, in the event of a strike, the general assemblies and other governing bodies of authority at member locals to collectively set through assembly votes the Federation's stance on any given proposal by government.

The Federation supports a notion that, in the event of a strike, the Federation shall not recommend a proposal made by the government to its members.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Organizational and Services Development Committee.

2012/08:N28 MOTION TO ADOPT ISSUES POLICY

Local 19/

Be it resolved that the following Issue Policy on "Criminalization of Dissent" be adopted:

CRIMINALIZATION OF DISSENT

Preamble

Students have long engaged in dissent across our province to advocate on the issues that most affect them and to speak, in solidarity, for others who are engaged in struggle. However, in recent years, there has been an increase of repressive action taken towards events and actions of student protest and outward dissent towards grave policies of government, some of which culminate in violence.

The use of legislation, in particular, to override or limit the freedoms of students to engage in these activities is troubling and counter to both the letter and spirit of the Charter and other law which provides some measure of protection to students and all citizens.

As a body that is representative of students throughout the province of Ontario and that stands in solidarity with students elsewhere, the Federation must raise the alarm when the spectre of such oppressive action and government edicts is raised.

Policy

The Federation opposes:

- The passage of legislation that engages in the criminalization of dissent and oversteps the rights provided in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms along with other related legislation;
- The use of tactics by police forces to maximize the effectiveness of the oppression of students and other groups, such as:

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- Pre-emptive arrest and detention,
 - Charges of conspiracy based upon action taken for lawful dissent and subsequent restrictive bail conditions designed to prevent actions taken for lawful dissent,
 - Techniques of personal intimidation, including detainment lacking charge or cause or warrant,
 - Kettling and other forms of mass detainment,
 - Unlawful arrest of members and raiding of student union premises based upon the prevention of lawful dissent, and
 - The removal of identification of law enforcement officials to prevent prosecution of unlawful acts; and
- The collaboration of post-secondary educational institutions and their administration with government and others in the above instances, particularly when said institutions take an active role to oppress or place the general well-being of students at risk.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Policy Review and Development Committee.

b. Motions Submitted by the Executive Committee

The following motions were served by the Executive Committee and shall be considered at the meeting.

2012/08:N29 MOTION

Be it resolved that Grant Thornton be appointed as the auditors for the 2012-2013 fiscal year audit.

It is recommended that this motion be considered by the Budget Committee.

13. PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will present a report detailing the work of the Federation undertaken since the previous general meeting.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

16. RECESS