

Opening Plenary Minutes

Semi-Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, January 15 to Sunday, January 18, 2015 - Toronto, Ontario

CALL TO ORDER – Thursday, January 15, 2015

6:27pm - Chairperson Alastair Woods called the 2015 Semi-Annual General Meeting to order.

1. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Local 1	Carleton University Students' Association	Absent
Local 19	University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union	Present
Local 20	Nipissing University Student Union	Present
Local 24	Ryerson Students' Union	Present
Local 25	Ontario College of Art and Design Student Union	Present
Local 27	Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students	Absent
Local 30	Laurentian University Students' General Association	Absent
Local 32	Lakehead University Student Union	Present
Local 39	McMaster University Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 41	Student Federation of the University of Ottawa	Present
Local 47	University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students	Present
Local 48	University of Windsor Graduate Students' Society	Present
Local 49	University of Windsor Students' Alliance	Present
Local 54	University of Guelph Central Student Association	Present
Local 56	Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 62	University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 68	York Federation of Students	Present
Local 71	Trent Central Student Association	Present
Local 78	Carleton University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 82	Algoma University Students' Union	Present
Local 84	York University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 85	Saint Paul University Students' Association	Present
Local 88	Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones de l'Université Laurentienne	Absent
Local 92	Student Association of George Brown College	Present
Local 93	Glendon College Student Union	Present
Local 94	University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 97	Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students of the University of Toronto	Present
Local 98	University of Toronto Students' Union	Present
Local 99	Scarborough Campus Students' Union, University of Toronto	Present
Local 102	Brock University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 104	Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-Time Students	Absent
Local 105	Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson	Present
Local 106	Organization of Part-Time University Students, University of Windsor	Present
Local 107	Association étudiante de La Cité collégiale	Present
Local 109	University of Toronto at Mississauga Students' Union	Present
Local 110	Laurentian University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 111	Laurentian Students' Union – Barrie	Present
Local 112	Association générale des étudiantes et étudiants du Collège Boréal	Absent

Woods said that quorum had been reached.

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2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROXIES

Woods said that no proxies had been received for the meeting.

3. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER

2015/01:001 MOTION

Local 97/Local 111

Be it resolved that Alastair Woods be ratified as the Speaker for the Opening Plenary of the 2015 Semi-Annual General Meeting; and

Be it further resolved that Sylvia Sioufi be ratified as the Speaker for the Closing Plenary of the 2015 Semi-Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

4. WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Woods provided some welcoming remarks.

5. RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Woods stated there are no new members to ratify.

6. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

2015/01:002 MOTION

Local 24/Local 102

Be it resolved that the 2015 Semi-Annual General Meeting plenary agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

7. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

2015/01:003 MOTION

Local 82/Local 94

Be it resolved that the 2015 Semi-Annual General Meeting agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

8. ADOPTION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

2015/01:004 MOTION

Local 105/Local 20

Be it resolved that the 2014 Annual General Meeting minutes be adopted.

CARRIED

9. OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES

a. Rules of Order and Plenary Procedures

Woods reviewed plenary procedures and his role as Speaker. He said that the meeting would follow Robert's Rules of Order.

b. Anti-Harassment Procedures for the General Meeting

Anti-Harassment Advisor Gilary Massa made a presentation on the Federation's harassment policy.

c. Presentation by the Federation's Staff Relations Officer

Woods introduced the staff of the Federation and made a presentation on the collective agreement between the Federation and its employees, members of CUPE 1281.

10. PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

a. Ratification of Electoral Officer

2015/01:005 MOTION

Local 78/Local 98

Be it resolved that National Deputy Chairperson Bilan Arte be appointed as Electoral Officer for the 2015 Semi-Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

b. Overview of Election Schedule and Procedures

Electoral Officer Bilan Arte outlined the positions for election and the election procedures for the meeting.

11. STRIKING OF PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEES

a. Striking of Plenary Sub-Committees

2015/01:006 MOTION

Local 97/Local 24

Be it resolved that the following sub-committees be struck:

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

CARRIED

b. Adoption of Committee Agendas

2015/01:007 MOTION

Local 111/Local 47

Be it resolved that the agendas for the plenary sub-committees be adopted.

CARRIED

12. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS SERVED WITH DUE NOTICE

a. Motions Submitted by Member Locals

2015/01:008 MOTION

Local 84/102

Whereas post-secondary institutions charge international student tuition fees that are significantly higher than domestic student tuition fees, in some cases by three or four times higher; and

Whereas international student tuition fees are not regulated provincially, so institutions may increase international student tuition fees by any amount; and

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Whereas differential fees between domestic and international students did not occur in Ontario before 1996; and

Whereas international students are major contributors to the Ontario economy in the amount of 4 billion dollars annually, pay taxes and are contributing members of society; and

Whereas more than half of international students become permanent residents and citizens (and hence, voting members of the community); and

Whereas differential fees create a divide and shift from equality and discourage campus diversity and inclusivity; and

Whereas a 5.5% cent per year increase to international student fees at York University was approved by the Board of Governors in 2013 for all international students and a further increase of by 50% for all incoming international students; and

Whereas the York University Graduate Students' Association (Local 84) has launched a campaign titled International Student Fees Hike to pressure the university and government to immediately regulate and decrease international student tuition fees; and

Whereas Local 84 has been pressuring the President of York University to lobby the provincial government to subsidize international students as they do with domestic students and regulate international student fees; and

Whereas Local 84 has begun work with on-campus coalition partners such as CUPE 3903 (the Teaching Assistant's, Graduate Assistant's and Contract Faculty labour union at York University) to educate our memberships about international student tuition fee issues; and

Whereas Local 84 and the Federation have met to discuss the necessary regulation and subsidizing of international students fees at Han Dong's office (the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities); and

Whereas Local 84 plans to write letters to all 107 ridings in Ontario pressuring the provincial government to regulate and subsidize international student tuition fees to the same, current standards used in regulation and subsidization of domestic student tuition fees; therefore

Be it resolved that letters be written to Members of Provincial Parliament from all 107 ridings in Ontario demanding that international students be funded by the government and that their tuition fees be regulated and reduced; and

Be it further resolved that, the York University students' International Student Fees Hike campaign be joined and endorsed; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to endorse and raise awareness of the International Student Fees Hike campaign on their own campuses including seeking campaign support from their institution's administration and/or president and/or Board of Governors (herein referred to as the institution's administration); and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to open discussion with their institution's administration about an alternative budget in which balancing the university's budget does not result in differential fees for international students; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to make concerted efforts to reach out and consult with their international students' constituencies and encourage them to take on leadership roles within the campaign; and

Be it further resolved that member locals in collaboration with their international students' constituencies and the Federation be encouraged to meet with their local members of provincial parliament to pressure the Ontario government into creating a funding line for international students in the 2015 budget; and

Be it further resolved that member locals in collaboration with the Federation be encouraged to write their own letters to all the individual MPP offices in all 107 ridings in Ontario.

2015/01:009 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:008 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:008 REFERRED

2015/01:010 MOTION

Local 68/102

Whereas the Federation has a longstanding history of addressing and working to end sexual assault and gender-based violence; and

Whereas over the past years the Federation has worked to directly change and affect the ways that post-secondary institutions approach and respond to sexual assault, including but not limited to developing a toolkit to support students' unions work lobbying for institutional sexual assault policies; and

Whereas the Toronto Star recently produced a feature which highlighted the concerning fact that just nine of more than 100 Canadian universities and colleges polled have adopted a special policy to address sexual assault; and

Whereas since then, both Colleges Ontario and the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) have committed to "investigating" how their institutions respond to sexual assault and support students who have experience sexual assault; and

Whereas it is important to have student representation when addressing the different ways in which post-secondary institutions respond to sexual assault and safety on campuses; and

Whereas after a call from Progressive Conservative MPP Lauren Scott, Premier Kathleen Wynne has publicly agreed to "strike a wide-ranging all-party committee to examine sexual assault and harassment in the workplace and beyond"; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation request to be involved with the new legislative committee to examine sexual assault and harassment in the workplace and beyond in the capacity of representing the voices and needs of students at post-secondary institutions; and

Be it further resolved that the a document be produced to present to both Colleges Ontario and the Council of Ontario Universities outlining important aspects that should be considered by and recommended to institutions when developing sexual assault policies; and

Be it further resolved the Federation work with relevant allied organizations such as Femifesto on this document.

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2015/01:011 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:010 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:010 REFERRED

2015/01:012 MOTION

Local 68/102

Whereas 43 students from the Raul Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers' College of Ayotzinapa went missing in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico on September 26, 2014 on their way to commemorate the 1968 student massacre in Tlatelolco; and

Whereas the Mayor of Iguala, José Luis Abarca Velázquez, ordered the police to confront the students to avoid the disruption of an event centred on a speech being given by his wife, María de los Ángeles Pineda Villa, who was seeking to replace him as Mayor; and

Whereas it is alleged that Mayor Abarca ordered the authorities to open fire on student protestors, killing three students, three other civilians and wounding 25 others; and

Whereas it is also alleged that after arresting the remaining 43 students, the police handed them over to the Guerreros Unidos, a criminal organization in Guerrero; and

Whereas it is also alleged that the Guerreros Unidos drove the remaining students to a garbage dump where they were killed, 15 of whom through suffocation, and had their bodies dumped into a pit and burned; and

Whereas a federal investigation has linked the students' disappearance and deaths to high ranking local and state officials, including the Mayor of Iguala, his wife and the Chief of Police; and

Whereas the disappearance and deaths of these 43 students sparked mass protests and public outrage around corruption in and transparency of government, as well as the right to protest in Mexico and across the world; therefore

Be it resolved that the disappearance and deaths of 43 student protestors in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to the President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, expressing outrage at these disappearances and deaths, calling for a full national inquiry, as well as solidarity with Mexican students; and

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

2015/01:013 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:012 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:012 REFERRED

2015/01:014 MOTION TO ADOPT ISSUES POLICY

Local 68/102

Whereas mental health has become a prominent topic of discussion at colleges and university; and

Whereas a number of colleges and universities are engaging in research on addressing mental health on campus; and

Whereas student input is integral part of discussion and decision making with regard to mental health strategies on campus; therefore

Be it resolved that that the following Issues Policy be adopted:

MENTAL HEALTH

Preamble

Students arriving at a post-secondary institution for the first time need to adapt to significant changes, including but not limited to moving to a new area, separation from family and friends, establishing a new social network, managing a budget given the realities of high tuition fees, combining academic study with other commitments, coping with access in a new environment and, for international students, living in a new country and adjusting to a different culture. While these changes can be exciting and challenging and an intrinsic part of the attraction of going to university or college, they can also give rise to anxiety and stress.

Students may experience emotional or psychological difficulties that without appropriate professional support are more persistent and inhibit their ability to participate fully in higher education. These difficulties may take the form of a long-term mental illness or a temporary, but debilitating, psychological condition or reaction. In addition, some students may arrive at university or college with a pre-existing psychological problem, either declared or undeclared.

Mental health problems can seriously impair academic performance and overall behaviour. Minor difficulties that interfere with a student's capacity to work may also result in distress and undermine academic progress.

Policy

The Federation supports mental health strategies that:

- Utilize on-campus committees mandated to investigate mental health services and ensure adequate delivery of quality service. These committees should be comprised of representatives of the institution, students' union representatives, student group representatives, faculty associations and staff unions;
- Recognize the diversity of experiences faced by students in post-secondary institutions;
- Consider the impacts of high tuition fees and un/underemployment on students' mental health;
- Adequately fund and provide resources for campus mental health and counselling services, including crisis and trauma centers;
- Work to destigmatize mental health issues within the student population and promote a culture of safety in discussing these issues; and
- Respect the confidentiality of personal information provided by students and service-users.

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2015/01:015 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:014 be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:014 REFERRED

2015/01:016 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 24/102

Whereas in the past year there have been at least 3 cases of unarmed black men killed by police officers in the United States; and

Whereas in September 2014, Jermaine Carby was shot and killed by the peel regional police during a police traffic stop in Brampton, Ontario; and

Whereas several eyewitnesses recount that Jermaine was unarmed when he was shot by police; and

Whereas every day black youth get carded, frisked and pulled over by police simply for being black; and

Whereas black people make up nearly one in 10 of the 15,000 inmates in Canada's federal prisons; and

Whereas anti-black racism is the systemic and institutional discrimination against black people; and

Whereas when challenging racism it is imperative to include the distinct experiences of black people; therefore

Be it resolved that the policy titled "Racism" be amended to include the following:

The Federation supports member locals challenging and seeking to eliminate systemic anti-black racism in post-secondary education, the justice system and other public institutions; and

The Federation opposes anti-black racism, which is systemic and institutional discrimination against black people.

2015/01:017 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:016 be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:016 REFERRED

2015/01:018 MOTION

Local 98/102

Whereas students at the University of Toronto voted overwhelmingly in a 2008 referendum to begin the collection of an ancillary fee for the construction of a Student Commons; and

Whereas this fee has been collected from individual students for a number of years; and

Whereas the collection and remittance of this fee for the purposes for which it was being collected went through all proper procedural channels and governing committees at the University of Toronto; and

Whereas the remittance of the fee has been held at Governing Council, the highest decision making body at the University, for unknown reasons; and

Whereas this refusal to remit the fees and work on the project altogether began immediately after the Ministry's announcement to changes in undergraduate flat fee programs; and

Whereas the University of Toronto Students' Union has met with Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities staff on numerous occasions and submitted complaints relating to this incident; and

Whereas the Ministry has consistently refused to intervene in the matter, even though the university administration is clearly violating the province's ancillary fee protocols; therefore

Be it resolved that the a letter be written to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities calling for them to intervene in the University of Toronto's withholding of ancillary fees collected for the construction of the Student Commons and to be more proactive when enforcing ancillary fee rules with colleges and universities; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to the University of Toronto administration demanding they release the Student Commons fee to the students' union immediately; and

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

2015/01:019 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:018 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:018 REFERRED

2015/01:020 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 98/102

Whereas flat fees unfairly burden students to pay more for their education if they choose to take fewer classes; and

Whereas the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities is implementing a mandatory increase for all flat fee thresholds from 60% to 80% course load; and

Whereas the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has placed a moratorium on any new flat fee structures in Ontario for two years; and

Whereas while this has relieved the burden of flat fees on many undergraduate students, flat fees still apply to many graduate and college students in Ontario; therefore

Be it resolved that the following be added to the "Federation supports" section of the Tuition and User Fees Issues Policy:

- That if tuition fees are charged, they are applied on a per term, per credit basis; and

Be it further resolved that the following be added to the “Federation opposes” section of the Tuition and User Fees Issues Policy:

- Any type of flat fees charged to students based on full or part time status, based on type of student (i.e.: graduate, college, professional), or based on program of study.

2015/01:021 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:020 be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:020 REFERRED

2015/01:022 MOTION

Local 98/102

Whereas students at the University of Toronto fought for years against an unfair flat fees policy in the Faculty of Arts and Science that forced all students in the faculty to pay full tuition fees regardless of course load; and

Whereas flat fees punish students who must work during their studies or reduce their course load for other personal or health reasons; and

Whereas the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities announced in December of 2013 that they would raise the threshold to charge flat fees from a 60 to an 80 per cent course load; and

Whereas the Ministry also kept a moratorium on the institution of new flat fee programs until the end of the new tuition fee framework in 2017; and

Whereas this decision saves undergraduate students at the University of Toronto over \$16 million per year; and

Whereas the current flat fee guidelines do not currently affect flat fee programs in programs designated as “cohort-based” as well as for students at the graduate level or for college students; and

Whereas the Ministry does not define “cohort-based” in any material related to tuition fee policy; therefore

Be it resolved that research be conducted and a policy brief be produced on flat fee programs for students in programs designated as “cohort-based”, as well as for graduate and college students; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be drafted to Reza Moridi, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, calling for changes to flat fee structures for students in programs designated as “cohort-based”, as well as for students at the college and graduate level similar to those for undergraduate students; and

Be it further resolved that the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities be contacted to initiate discussions to bring about similar flat fee changes for students in programs designated as “cohort-based”, as well as graduate and college students.

2015/01:023 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:022 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:022 REFERRED

2015/01:024 MOTION

Local 78/102

Whereas the Challenge Homophobia and Transphobia campaign is an important Federation campaign which brings visibility to, and inspires action around the issues faced by trans students; and

Whereas transfeminine spectrum persons – those coercively assigned male who identify on the feminine end of the gender spectrum- experience a particular type of transphobia known as transmisogyny – the intersection of transphobia and sexism/misogyny; and

Whereas, transfeminine spectrum persons are less likely than transmasculine people to be living in their felt gender due to the high rates of transmisogyny, as compared to transphobia; and

Whereas the Trans PULSE project (2013) was a five year study on trans people in Ontario that produced numerous articles and fact sheets around trans experiences; and

Whereas nearly two-thirds of trans Ontarians reported having avoided public spaces, including schools, gyms and washrooms, for fear of violence or harassment; and

Whereas 80% of transgender students report feeling physically unsafe at school; and

Whereas transfeminine people, particularly transfeminine people of colour, experience the highest rates of anti-queer violence and make up 53% of anti-LGBTQA+ murders; and

Whereas transfeminine persons experience high rates of unemployment, workplace discrimination, poverty, police violence and are disproportionately represented within the Canadian prison system; and

Whereas trans people in Ontario have a suicide attempt rate of 43%, with the highest attempt rates being among those under the age of 25; and

Whereas 61.2% of transfeminine spectrum persons in Ontario reported experiencing symptoms of depression for reasons including: inadequate access to resources; starting, but not completing post-secondary studies; being unemployed; and experiencing high levels of transphobia; and

Whereas the Trans PULSE project (2013) calls for “the need of initiatives that address the particular impacts of transphobia on MTF (male-to-feminine/female) spectrum people;” and

Whereas preventing transmisogynistic verbal, physical, and sexual violence is critical for increasing social participation among transfeminine spectrum persons; and

Whereas trans masculine and trans feminine people experience different social and economic impacts as a result of transitioning and/or being visibly gender-nonconforming; therefore

Be it resolved that the Challenge Homophobia and Transphobia campaign be expanded to include resources such as fact sheets, posters, and buttons that centre the different

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experiences and disproportionate impact of transphobic violence faced by transfeminine spectrum persons.

2015/01:025 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:024 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:024 REFERRED

2015/01:026 MOTION

Local 78/102

Whereas students are regularly discriminated against based on the group's perceived age; and

Whereas this discrimination can hinder the goals of the student movement, which aim to achieve accessible education, good, secure jobs, accessible daycare, and other important public services; and

Whereas students are routinely accused of belonging to a "generation of entitlement," which has its roots in ageism; and

Whereas Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz exhibited ageism in his recent comments that suggested that "adult children" living in their parents' basements should consider unpaid work to combat youth unemployment, and stated: "I'm pretty sure these kids have not taken early retirement;" and

Whereas such ageist, derogatory sentiments suggest that the labour of young adults is not worthy of equal compensation to other workers; and

Whereas many post-secondary administrations across Ontario have installed, in a coordinated fashion, student codes of conduct that infringe on students' rights to freedom of assembly and speech; and

Whereas these codes are paternalistic and ageist in nature; and

Whereas some post-secondary administrations have infringed on students' union autonomy by withholding student levies and insisting upon access to or oversight over an association's financial records; and

Whereas these practices are supported by the ageist notion that students are unable to responsibly oversee their autonomous affairs; and

Whereas various businesses and organizations discriminate against older students through imposing age limits on student discounts even though all students, regardless of age, pay tuition fees and should receive the same benefits; and

Whereas many student activities, programs, courses, and spaces do not accommodate the needs of student parents; and

Whereas student parents face barriers to participation when, for example, childcare is inaccessible, and when academic policies do not include parent-specific accommodations; and

Whereas these barriers exist, in part, because of ageist notions of the student identity and experience, which assume students are young and childless; therefore

Be it resolved that the equity campaign be expanded to incorporate “Challenge Ageism,” as a point of advocacy; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to consider how our student unions and post-secondary institutions can be more inclusive spaces for older students.

2015/01:027 MOTION TO REFER
Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:026 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:026 REFERRED

2015/01:028 MOTION
Local 97/102

Whereas international students and permanent resident students are an integral part of our post-secondary educational institutions and thus should have an equal say in their governance; and

Whereas section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms prohibits federal and provincial governments from discriminating on the basis of citizenship; and

Whereas post-secondary institutions in Ontario are established by provincial statutes; and

Whereas the legislation establishing Ontario Colleges of Art and Technology places no restrictions on eligibility for membership on governing boards pertaining to citizenship or residency; and

Whereas the legislation establishing most Ontario universities places no restrictions on eligibility for membership on governing boards pertaining to citizenship or residency; and

Whereas the legislation establishing McMaster University, Ryerson University, University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario and Wilfred Laurier University requires governing board members to be Canadian citizens; and

Whereas the legislation establishing Nipissing University requires governing board members to be either Canadian citizens or permanent residents; and

Whereas this inconsistency of legislation clearly demonstrates that there is no pressing and substantial need justifying discrimination on the basis of citizenship or residency in the eligibility for membership on governing boards; therefore,

Be it resolved that the Federation campaign to end these statutory restrictions on eligibility for governing board membership; and

Be it further resolved that member locals affected by these restrictions be encouraged to work together to challenge these restrictions through political lobbying and/or legal challenges; and

Be it further resolved that intervener status be sought in any such legal challenge; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation reach out to groups representing faculty and staff of post-secondary institutions affected by these restrictions, encouraging them to join in this campaign.

2015/01:029 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:028 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee

CARRIED

2015/01:028 REFERRED

2015/01:030 MOTION

Local 97/102

Whereas a 2013 Bank of Montreal study showed that women students expect to graduate with a debt of \$30,210 and men students expect to graduate with a debt of \$22,465; and

Whereas there is much anecdotal evidence that marginalized students are further disadvantaged by graduating with higher debt loads; therefore

Be it resolved that research be undertaken on the disproportionate levels of debt of students from marginalized communities as compared to average student debt levels; and

Be it further resolved that research be undertaken on the causes of these disproportionate accumulations of debt.

2015/01:031 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:030 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:030 REFERRED

2015/01:032 MOTION

Local 97/102

Whereas College and University administrations are increasingly threatening the autonomy of student unions through such actions as freezing students' unions assets, refusing to transfer membership fees, and taking over student run services; and

Whereas this autonomy is essential for students' unions to effectively provide services and representation for their members; and

Whereas labour unions have long had such autonomy; and

Whereas the Federation supports the drafting of provincial legislation modeled after Bill 184: An Act Respecting Student Associations at Post-Secondary Institutions in Ontario, which was tabled following the dissolution of provincial parliament prior to the last election; and

Whereas provincial legislatures in British Columbia and Quebec have enacted similar legislation as the result of successful lobbying efforts by students' unions; and

Whereas member locals in Ontario would benefit from learning of the means used to achieve success in these provinces; therefore

Be it resolved that a workshop be presented on the statutory protections offered to students' unions in British Columbia and Quebec, and how this was achieved; and

Be it further resolved that the collaboration of organized labour and other coalition partners be sought in preparing this workshop; and

Be it further resolved that this workshop be presented prior to March 2016.

2015/01:033 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:032 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:032 REFERRED

2015/01:034 MOTION

Local 97/102

Whereas the Federation has an Access for Part-time Students campaign which addresses the implications of the lack of financial support for part-time students in Ontario; and

Whereas these materials have not been updated since 2006; therefore

Be it resolved that the Access for Part-time Students campaign materials be redesigned and expanded.

2015/01:035 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:034 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:034 REFERRED

2015/01:036 MOTION TO AMEND OPERATIONS POLICY

Local 94/102

Whereas Bylaw XI.15 stipulates that the Chairperson must undertake suitable language training prior to assuming the office of Chairperson, that they must be tested to determine their potential to be bilingual, and that bilingualism training is mandatory; and

Whereas there is no Operations Policy detailing how the Chairperson must go about achieving these requirements; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario values Aboriginal and French languages as languages of resistance as seen through its Aboriginal Students Constituency Group and Francophone and Bilingual Caucus; therefore,

Be it resolved that the Operations Policy on "Chairperson-Elect" be amended to include the following:

Second Language Proficiency

In the event that the Chairperson-Elect is not proficient in the second language as defined in Bylaw XI.15 at the time of election, the Federation will arrange for second language resources from a public institution to be made available. Any courses, programs or other resources used to gain second language proficiency shall be concluded no later than 8 weeks after the start of the Chairperson's term.

Second language proficiency will be considered the ability to:

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- Comprehend the second language; and
- Communicate with member locals in the second language.

Be it further resolved that a method for assessing First Nations Languages be done in consultation with the Aboriginal Students' Constituency Group Commissioner.

2015/01:037 MOTION TO REFER

Local 24/Local 92

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:036 be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:036 REFERRED

b. Motions Submitted by the Executive Committee

2015/01:038 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 99/Local 49

Whereas Bylaw II.5.e.v mandates that the hours of voting be determined by the Chief Returning Officer; and

Whereas Bylaw II.5.a.ii requires that the exact hours of voting be included in the petition calling for a referendum, thereby creating a conflict in the Bylaws; and

Whereas it is preferable to allow the Chief Returning Officer to determine the hours of voting, with the added benefit that this would make the Bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario congruent with the Bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students; and

Whereas Bylaw II.5.a.ii requires that the exact dates of voting be included in the petition calling for a referendum; and

Whereas the minimum number of voting days are stipulated in Bylaw II.5.c.ii but should be included in Bylaw II.5.a.ii in order to avoid confusion; and

Whereas there should be a maximum number of voting dates; and

Whereas the Federation's national Bylaws prescribe a maximum of five (5) voting days; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw II.5.a.ii be amended to read:

The petition must include the exact dates of the proposed vote, provided that there shall be no fewer than two (2) and no greater than five (5) days of voting. No vote on decertification shall be scheduled between April 15 and September 15 or between December 15 and January 15;" and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II.5.c.ii be deleted.

2015/01:039 MOTION TO REFER

Local 19/Local 32

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:038 be referred to the Organization and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:038 REFERRED

2015/01:040 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 99/Local 49

Whereas the Bylaws currently mandate no fewer than 2 weeks of campaigning for a referendum in addition to campaigning during the vote; and

Whereas this results in a minimum requirement of up to 3 weeks of campaigning; and

Whereas this can be excessive, especially at smaller member local associations; and

Whereas there is currently no maximum campaign period; and

Whereas the Federation's national Bylaws require a minimum of 1 week and a maximum of 2 weeks for campaigning prior to the voting period; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw II.3.b.i. and Bylaw II.5.b.i. be amended to read:

Campaigning shall take place for no less than one (1) week and no greater than two (2) weeks preceding the vote during which time classes are in session, and on each and every day on which voting is to occur.

2015/01:041 MOTION TO REFER

Local 99/Local 49

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:040 be referred to the Organizational and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:040 REFERRED

2015/01:42 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 99/Local 49

Whereas the Federation is incorporated under the Ontario Corporations Act (OCA); and

Whereas the OCA will shortly be replaced with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA); and

Whereas the Federation has commenced the process of becoming compliant with ONCA, including making revisions to ensure that the Federation's current structure of having only one class of membership is maintained; therefore

Be it resolved that the Bylaw II.1 be amended to include, at the start:

Membership

General Description: There is one (1) category of member of the Federation: local student associations representing individual students who have been admitted as members by the Federation (the "member local association"). Membership entails membership in the chartering organization, Canadian Federation of Students; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II.1 "Full Membership" be re-named "Membership Status – Full Membership" and that the "General Description" section be deleted; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II.2 "Prospective Membership" be re-named "Membership Status – Prospective Membership" and that the "General Description" section be deleted; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaws II.1 "Full Membership" and Bylaw II.2 "Prospective Membership" be incorporated within Bylaw II.1; and

Be it further resolved that all references to “voting member local” in the Bylaws be replaced with “member local association;” and

Be it further resolved that all references to “individual members” and “individual members of the Federation” in the Bylaws be replaced with “students;” and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II.1 be amended to include the following:

- g. The students collectively belonging to a local student association have the right to have their interests represented collectively in the Federation through their local student association, but, for greater certainty, are not members of the Federation and accordingly will not have voting rights at Federation general meetings; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw I – Definitions, Section 6. “Individual Members” be deleted; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II.2.i. be amended to read: “A prospective member local association shall have full voting rights at general meetings and shall have the same access to Federation resources and materials;” and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw VIII.7.a be amended to read: “A nominee for a position as Local Representative on the Executive Committee must be a member of the member local association in question.”

015/01:043 MOTION TO REFER

Local 99/Local 49

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/01:042 be referred to the Organization and Services Development Committee.

CARRIED

2015/01:042 REFERRED

13. PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

015/01:044 MOTION

Local 107/Local 109

Be it resolved that the Executive Committee report be accepted.

Chairperson Alastair Woods and National Executive Representative Anna Goldfinch presented the report of the Executive Committee.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Woods made provided logistical announcements.

16. RECESS

2015/01:045 MOTION

Local 68/Local 98

Be it resolved that plenary recess until 11:00 a.m. Sunday, January 17, 2015.

CARRIED

8:21 p.m. – The meeting recessed.

Closing Plenary Minutes

Semi-Annual General Meeting · Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Thursday, January 15 to Sunday, January 18, 2015 - Toronto, Ontario

CALL TO ORDER

10:27am - Plenary Speaker Sylvia Sioufi called the Closing Plenary to order.

1. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Local 1	Carleton University Students' Association	Absent
Local 19	University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union	Present
Local 20	Nipissing University Student Union	Present
Local 24	Ryerson Students' Union	Present
Local 25	Ontario College of Art and Design Student Union	Present
Local 27	Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students	Absent
Local 30	Laurentian University Students' General Association	Absent
Local 32	Lakehead University Student Union	Present
Local 39	McMaster University Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 41	Student Federation of the University of Ottawa	Present
Local 47	University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students	Present
Local 48	University of Windsor Graduate Students' Society	Present
Local 49	University of Windsor Students' Alliance	Present
Local 54	University of Guelph Central Student Association	Present
Local 56	Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 62	University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association	Absent
Local 68	York Federation of Students	Present
Local 71	Trent Central Student Association	Present
Local 78	Carleton University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 82	Algoma University Students' Union	Present
Local 84	York University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 85	Saint Paul University Students' Association	Present
Local 88	Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones de l'Université Laurentienne	Present
Local 92	Student Association of George Brown College	Present
Local 93	Glendon College Student Union	Absent
Local 94	University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 97	Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students of the University of Toronto	Present
Local 98	University of Toronto Students' Union	Present
Local 99	Scarborough Campus Students' Union, University of Toronto	Present
Local 102	Brock University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 104	Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-Time Students	Absent
Local 105	Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson	Present
Local 106	Organization of Part-Time University Students, University of Windsor	Present
Local 107	Association étudiante de La Cité collégiale	Present
Local 109	University of Toronto at Mississauga Students' Union	Present
Local 110	Laurentian University Graduate Students' Association	Present
Local 111	Laurentian Students' Union – Barrie	Present
Local 112	Association générale des étudiantes et étudiants du Collège Boréal	Absent

Sioufi said that quorum had been reached.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurer Mohammad Akbar presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

2015/01:046 MOTION

Local 102/Local 98

Be it resolved that the draft 2013-2014 financial statements be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2015/01:047 MOTION

Local 68/Local 98

Be it resolved that the 2014-2015 revised budget be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2015/01:048 MOTION

Local 98/Local 111

Be it resolved that the Budget Committee Report be accepted.

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATION OF THE CAMPAIGNS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Alastair Woods presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

2015/01:008 MOTION

Local 84/Local 102

Whereas post-secondary institutions charge international student tuition fees that are significantly higher than domestic student tuition fees, in some cases by three or four times higher; and

Whereas international student tuition fees are not regulated provincially, so institutions may increase international student tuition fees by any amount; and

Whereas differential fees between domestic and international students did not occur in Ontario before 1996; and

Whereas international students are major contributors to the Ontario economy in the amount of 4 billion dollars annually, pay taxes and are contributing members of society; and

Whereas more than half of international students become permanent residents and citizens (and hence, voting members of the community); and

Whereas differential fees create a divide and shift from equality and discourage campus diversity and inclusivity; and

Whereas a 5.5% cent per year increase to international student fees at York University was approved by the Board of Governors in 2013 for all international students and a further increase of by 50% for all incoming international students; and

Whereas the York University Graduate Students' Association (Local 84) has launched a campaign titled International Student Fees Hike to pressure the university and government to immediately regulate and decrease international student tuition fees; and

Whereas Local 84 has been pressuring the President of York University to lobby the provincial government to subsidize international students as they do with domestic students and regulate international student fees; and

Whereas Local 84 has begun work with on-campus coalition partners such as CUPE 3903 (the Teaching Assistant's, Graduate Assistant's and Contract Faculty labour union at York University) to educate our memberships about international student tuition fee issues; and

Whereas Local 84 and the Federation have met to discuss the necessary regulation and subsidizing of international students fees at Han Dong's office (the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities); and

Whereas Local 84 plans to write letters to all 107 ridings in Ontario pressuring the provincial government to regulate and subsidize international student tuition fees to the same, current standards used in regulation and subsidization of domestic student tuition fees; therefore

Be it resolved that letters be written to Members of Provincial Parliament from all 107 ridings in Ontario demanding that international students be funded by the government and that their tuition fees be regulated and reduced; and

Be it further resolved that, the York University students' International Student Fees Hike campaign be joined and endorsed; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to endorse and raise awareness of the International Student Fees Hike campaign on their own campuses including seeking campaign support from their institution's administration and/or president and/or Board of Governors (herein referred to as the institution's administration); and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to open discussion with their institution's administration about an alternative budget in which balancing the university's budget does not result in differential fees for international students; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to make concerted efforts to reach out and consult with their international students' constituencies and encourage them to take on leadership roles within the campaign; and

Be it further resolved that member locals in collaboration with their international students' constituencies and the Federation be encouraged to meet with their local members of provincial parliament to pressure the Ontario government into creating a funding line for international students in the 2015 budget; and

Be it further resolved that member locals in collaboration with the Federation be encouraged to write their own letters to all the individual MPP offices in all 107 ridings in Ontario.

2015/01:049 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 24/Local 49

Be it resolved that the sixth clause of motion 2015/01:008 be amended to read:

Be it further resolved that member locals in collaboration with their international students' constituencies and the Federation be encouraged to meet with their local members of provincial parliament to pressure the Ontario government into implementing per student funding for international students at Ontario post-secondary education institutions in the 2015 budget;

CARRIED

2015/01:050 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 84/Local 25

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Be it resolved that the second and third clauses of motion 2015/01:008 be amended to read:

Be it further resolved that, the York University students' Close the Gap on Differential Fees campaign be joined and endorsed; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to endorse and raise awareness of the Close the Gap on Differential Fees campaign on their own campuses including seeking campaign support from their institution's administration and/or president and/or Board of Governors (herein referred to as the institution's administration);

CARRIED

2015/01:008 CARRIED

2015/01:010 MOTION

Local 68/Local 102

Whereas the Federation has a longstanding history of addressing and working to end sexual assault and gender-based violence; and

Whereas over the past years the Federation has worked to directly change and affect the ways that post-secondary institutions approach and respond to sexual assault, including but not limited to developing a toolkit to support students' unions work lobbying for institutional sexual assault policies; and

Whereas the Toronto Star recently produced a feature which highlighted the concerning fact that just nine of more than 100 Canadian universities and colleges polled have adopted a special policy to address sexual assault; and

Whereas since then, both Colleges Ontario and the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) have committed to "investigating" how their institutions respond to sexual assault and support students who have experience sexual assault; and

Whereas it is important to have student representation when addressing the different ways in which post-secondary institutions respond to sexual assault and safety on campuses; and

Whereas after a call from Progressive Conservative MPP Lauren Scott, Premier Kathleen Wynne has publicly agreed to "strike a wide-ranging all-party committee to examine sexual assault and harassment in the workplace and beyond"; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation request to be involved with the new legislative committee to examine sexual assault and harassment in the workplace and beyond in the capacity of representing the voices and needs of students at post-secondary institutions; and

Be it further resolved that the a document be produced to present to both Colleges Ontario and the Council of Ontario Universities outlining important aspects that should be considered by and recommended to institutions when developing sexual assault policies; and

Be it further resolved the Federation work with relevant allied organizations such as Femifesto on this document.

2015/01:051 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 105/Local 109

Be it resolved that the second clause of motion 2015/01:010 be amended to read:

Be it further resolved that the a document be produced to present to both Colleges Ontario and the Council of Ontario Universities outlining important aspects that should be considered by and recommended to institutions when developing policies about sexual assault, sexual harassment and/or gender based violence;

CARRIED

2015/01:052 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 105/Local 109

Be it resolved that the following clauses be added to motion 2015/01:010:

Be it resolved that the Federation produce an open statement for member locals to distribute on campuses and to administrations that applauds their efforts to address and respond to sexual assault and harassment on campus and the absence of policies; and

Be it further resolved that this statement speak to the need to ensure that:

- policy creation and development is not rushed and consultation with students is not compromised;
- women's voices are included;
- women students are included with full voice and vote on any committee at the institution; and
- education be a key component in any policy or procedure established by the institution to address sexual assault and harassment; and

Be it resolved that the Federation write to MPPs involved with the new legislative committee examining sexual assault and harassment in the workplace and at colleges and universities to request that the Federation be involved to represent the voices and needs of students at post-secondary institutions; and

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

CARRIED

2015/01:053 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 24/Local 84

Be it resolved that the third clause of motion 2015/01:010 be amended to read:

Be it further resolved the Federation work with relevant allied organizations such as Femifesto on this document with focus on the inclusion of marginalized voices and communities from queer, trans, racialised, graduate and students with disabilities' perspectives.

CARRIED

2015/01:010 CARRIED

2015/01:012 MOTION

Local 68/Local 102

Whereas 43 students from the Raul Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers' College of Ayotzinapa went missing in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico on September 26, 2014 on their way to commemorate the 1968 student massacre in Tlatelolco; and

Whereas the Mayor of Iguala, José Luis Abarca Velázquez, ordered the police to confront the students to avoid the disruption of an event centred on a speech being given by his wife, María de los Ángeles Pineda Villa, who was seeking to replace him as Mayor; and

Whereas it is alleged that Mayor Abarca ordered the authorities to open fire on student protestors, killing three students, three other civilians and wounding 25 others; and

Whereas it is also alleged that after arresting the remaining 43 students, the police handed them over to the Guerreros Unidos, a criminal organization in Guerrero; and

Whereas it is also alleged that the Guerreros Unidos drove the remaining students to a garbage dump where they were killed, 15 of whom through suffocation, and had their bodies dumped into a pit and burned; and

Whereas a federal investigation has linked the students' disappearance and deaths to high ranking local and state officials, including the Mayor of Iguala, his wife and the Chief of Police; and

Whereas the disappearance and deaths of these 43 students sparked mass protests and public outrage around corruption in and transparency of government, as well as the right to protest in Mexico and across the world; therefore

Be it resolved that the disappearance and deaths of 43 student protestors in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to the President of Mexico, Enrique Pena Nieto, expressing outrage at these disappearances and deaths, calling for a full national inquiry, as well as solidarity with Mexican students; and

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

2015/01:054 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 97/Local 32

Be it resolved that the second clause of motion 2015/01:012 be amended to read:

Be it resolved that letters be written to the Mexican President Enrique Nieto and to Attorney General Jesús Marillo Karam urging the Federal Attorney General to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into all the human rights violations committed in this case and bring those responsible to justice including all state and federal officials who repeatedly failed to investigate previous reports of collusion between local public officials and criminal gangs in Iguala; and urging the authorities to fully and promptly implement the signed agreement with the victims' relatives and the Inter-American Human Rights Commission;

CARRIED

2015/01:055 MOTION TO AMEND

Be it resolved that the following clauses be added to motion 2015/01:012:

Be it further resolved that copies of these letters be sent to the local Human Rights Organization "Centro de Derechos Humanes de la Montana" Tlachinollan; and

Be it further resolved that copies of the letter be sent to the Mexican Embassy and Consulate and to student unions in Mexico.

CARRIED

2015/01:012 CARRIED

2015/01:018 MOTION

Local 98/Local 102

Whereas students at the University of Toronto voted overwhelmingly in a 2008 referendum to begin the collection of an ancillary fee for the construction of a Student Commons; and

Whereas this fee has been collected from individual students for a number of years; and

Whereas the collection and remittance of this fee for the purposes for which it was being collected went through all proper procedural channels and governing committees at the University of Toronto; and

Whereas the remittance of the fee has been held at Governing Council, the highest decision making body at the University, for unknown reasons; and

Whereas this refusal to remit the fees and work on the project altogether began immediately after the Ministry's announcement to changes in undergraduate flat fee programs; and

Whereas the University of Toronto Students' Union has met with Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities staff on numerous occasions and submitted complaints relating to this incident; and

Whereas the Ministry has consistently refused to intervene in the matter, even though the university administration is clearly violating the province's ancillary fee protocols; therefore

Be it resolved that the a letter be written to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities calling for them to intervene in the University of Toronto's withholding of ancillary fees collected for the construction of the Student Commons and to be more proactive when enforcing ancillary fee rules with colleges and universities; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be written to the University of Toronto administration demanding they release the Student Commons fee to the students' union immediately; and

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

CARRIED

2015/01:022 MOTION

Local 98/Local 102

Whereas students at the University of Toronto fought for years against an unfair flat fees policy in the Faculty of Arts and Science that forced all students in the faculty to pay full tuition fees regardless of course load; and

Whereas flat fees punish students who must work during their studies or reduce their course load for other personal or health reasons; and

Whereas the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities announced in December of 2013 that they would raise the threshold to charge flat fees from a 60 to an 80 per cent course load; and

Whereas the Ministry also kept a moratorium on the institution of new flat fee programs until the end of the new tuition fee framework in 2017; and

Whereas this decision saves undergraduate students at the University of Toronto over \$16 million per year; and

Whereas the current flat fee guidelines do not currently affect flat fee programs in programs designated as “cohort-based” as well as for students at the graduate level or for college students; and

Whereas the Ministry does not define “cohort-based” in any material related to tuition fee policy; therefore

Be it resolved that research be conducted and a policy brief be produced on flat fee programs for students in programs designated as “cohort-based”, as well as for graduate and college students; and

Be it further resolved that a letter be drafted to Reza Moridi, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, calling for changes to flat fee structures for students in programs designated as “cohort-based”, as well as for students at the college and graduate level similar to those for undergraduate students; and

Be it further resolved that the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities be contacted to initiate discussions to bring about similar flat fee changes for students in programs designated as “cohort-based”, as well as graduate and college students.

CARRIED

2015/01:024 MOTION

Local 78/Local 102

Whereas the Challenge Homophobia and Transphobia campaign is an important Federation campaign which brings visibility to, and inspires action around the issues faced by trans students; and

Whereas transfeminine spectrum persons – those coercively assigned male who identify on the feminine end of the gender spectrum- experience a particular type of transphobia known as transmisogyny – the intersection of transphobia and sexism/misogyny; and

Whereas, transfeminine spectrum persons are less likely than transmasculine people to be living in their felt gender due to the high rates of transmisogyny, as compared to transphobia; and

Whereas the Trans PULSE project (2013) was a five year study on trans people in Ontario that produced numerous articles and fact sheets around trans experiences; and

Whereas nearly two-thirds of trans Ontarians reported having avoided public spaces, including schools, gyms and washrooms, for fear of violence or harassment; and

Whereas 80% of transgender students report feeling physically unsafe at school; and

Whereas transfeminine people, particularly transfeminine people of colour, experience the highest rates of anti-queer violence and make up 53% of anti-LGBTQA+ murders; and

Whereas transfeminine persons experience high rates of unemployment, workplace discrimination, poverty, police violence and are disproportionately represented within the Canadian prison system; and

Whereas trans people in Ontario have a suicide attempt rate of 43%, with the highest attempt rates being among those under the age of 25; and

Whereas 61.2% of transfeminine spectrum persons in Ontario reported experiencing symptoms of depression for reasons including: inadequate access to resources; starting, but not completing post-secondary studies; being unemployed; and experiencing high levels of transphobia; and

Whereas the Trans PULSE project (2013) calls for “the need of initiatives that address the particular impacts of transphobia on MTF (male-to-feminine/female) spectrum people;” and

Whereas preventing transmisogynistic verbal, physical, and sexual violence is critical for increasing social participation among transfeminine spectrum persons; and

Whereas trans masculine and trans feminine people experience different social and economic impacts as a result of transitioning and/or being visibly gender-nonconforming; therefore

Be it resolved that the Challenge Homophobia and Transphobia campaign be expanded to include resources such as fact sheets, posters, and buttons that centre the different experiences and disproportionate impact of transphobic violence faced by transfeminine spectrum persons.

CARRIED

2015/01:026

MOTION

Local 78/Local 102

Whereas students are regularly discriminated against based on the group’s perceived age; and

Whereas this discrimination can hinder the goals of the student movement, which aim to achieve accessible education, good, secure jobs, accessible daycare, and other important public services; and

Whereas students are routinely accused of belonging to a “generation of entitlement,” which has its roots in ageism; and

Whereas Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz exhibited ageism in his recent comments that suggested that “adult children” living in their parents’ basements should consider unpaid work to combat youth unemployment, and stated: “I’m pretty sure these kids have not taken early retirement;” and

Whereas such ageist, derogatory sentiments suggest that the labour of young adults is not worthy of equal compensation to other workers; and

Whereas many post-secondary administrations across Ontario have installed, in a coordinated fashion, student codes of conduct that infringe on students’ rights to freedom of assembly and speech; and

Whereas these codes are paternalistic and ageist in nature; and

Whereas some post-secondary administrations have infringed on students’ union autonomy by withholding student levies and insisting upon access to or oversight over an association’s financial records; and

Whereas these practices are supported by the ageist notion that students are unable to responsibly oversee their autonomous affairs; and

Whereas various businesses and organizations discriminate against older students through imposing age limits on student discounts even though all students, regardless of age, pay tuition fees and should receive the same benefits; and

Whereas many student activities, programs, courses, and spaces do not accommodate the needs of student parents; and

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Whereas student parents face barriers to participation when, for example, childcare is inaccessible, and when academic policies do not include parent-specific accommodations; and

Whereas these barriers exist, in part, because of ageist notions of the student identity and experience, which assume students are young and childless; therefore

Be it resolved that the equity campaign be expanded to incorporate “Challenge Ageism,” as a point of advocacy; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to consider how our student unions and post-secondary institutions can be more inclusive spaces for older students.

2015/01:056 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 24/Local 47

Be it resolved that the first clause of motion 2015/01:026 be amended to read:

Be it resolved that the Federation’s general campaigns incorporates challenging ageism which includes how the diverse spectrum of ageism can both marginalize and privilege students;

CARRIED

2015/01:057 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 24/Local 54

Be it resolved that the last clause of motion 2015/01:026 be amended to read:

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to consider how students’ unions and post-secondary institutions can become more inclusive spaces for students who experience ageism;

CARRIED

2015/01:058 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 78/Local 97

Be it resolved that the following clause be added to motion 2015/01:026:

Be it further resolved that the Federation, in consultation with the Mature and Part-Time Students Constituency Group, develop materials related to marginalization on the basis of age.

CARRIED

2015/01:026 CARRIED

2015/01:028 MOTION

Local 97/Local 102

Whereas international students and permanent resident students are an integral part of our post-secondary educational institutions and thus should have an equal say in their governance; and

Whereas section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms prohibits federal and provincial governments from discriminating on the basis of citizenship; and

Whereas post-secondary institutions in Ontario are established by provincial statutes; and

Whereas the legislation establishing Ontario Colleges of Art and Technology places no restrictions on eligibility for membership on governing boards pertaining to citizenship or residency; and

Whereas the legislation establishing most Ontario universities places no restrictions on eligibility for membership on governing boards pertaining to citizenship or residency; and

Whereas the legislation establishing McMaster University, Ryerson University, University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario and Wilfred Laurier University requires governing board members to be Canadian citizens; and

Whereas the legislation establishing Nipissing University requires governing board members to be either Canadian citizens or permanent residents; and

Whereas this inconsistency of legislation clearly demonstrates that there is no pressing and substantial need justifying discrimination on the basis of citizenship or residency in the eligibility for membership on governing boards; therefore,

Be it resolved that the Federation campaign to end these statutory restrictions on eligibility for governing board membership; and

Be it further resolved that member locals affected by these restrictions be encouraged to work together to challenge these restrictions through political lobbying and/or legal challenges; and

Be it further resolved that intervener status be sought in any such legal challenge; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation reach out to groups representing faculty and staff of post-secondary institutions affected by these restrictions, encouraging them to join in this campaign.

2015/01:059 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 97/Local 99

Be it resolved that the first and second clauses of motion 2015/01:028 be amended to read:

Be it resolved that the Federation campaign to end the statutory citizenship requirements for governing board membership; and

Be it further resolved that member locals affected by governing board citizenship requirements be encouraged to work together to challenge these restrictions through political lobbying and/or legal challenges;

CARRIED

2015/01:028 CARRIED

2015/01:030 MOTION

Local 97/Local 102

Whereas a 2013 Bank of Montreal study showed that women students expect to graduate with a debt of \$30,210 and men students expect to graduate with a debt of \$22,465; and

Whereas there is much anecdotal evidence that marginalized students are further disadvantaged by graduating with higher debt loads; therefore

Be it resolved that research be undertaken on the disproportionate levels of debt of students from marginalized communities as compared to average student debt levels; and

Be it further resolved that research be undertaken on the causes of these disproportionate accumulations of debt.

CARRIED

2015/01:032 MOTION

Local 97/Local 102

Whereas College and University administrations are increasingly threatening the autonomy of student unions through such actions as freezing students' unions' assets, refusing to transfer membership fees, and taking over student run services; and

Whereas this autonomy is essential for students' unions to effectively provide services and representation for their members; and

Whereas labour unions have long had such autonomy; and

Whereas the Federation supports the drafting of provincial legislation modeled after Bill 184: An Act Respecting Student Associations at Post-Secondary Institutions in Ontario, which was tabled following the dissolution of provincial parliament prior to the last election; and

Whereas provincial legislatures in British Columbia and Quebec have enacted similar legislation as the result of successful lobbying efforts by students' unions; and

Whereas member locals in Ontario would benefit from learning of the means used to achieve success in these provinces; therefore

Be it resolved that a workshop be presented on the statutory protections offered to students' unions in British Columbia and Quebec, and how this was achieved; and

Be it further resolved that the collaboration of organized labour and other coalition partners be sought in preparing this workshop; and

Be it further resolved that this workshop be presented prior to March 2016.

CARRIED

2015/01:034 MOTION

Local 97/Local 102

Whereas the Federation has an Access for Part-time Students campaign which addresses the implications of the lack of financial support for part-time students in Ontario; and

Whereas these materials have not been updated since 2006; therefore

Be it resolved that the Access for Part-time Students campaign materials be redesigned and expanded.

2015/01:060 MOTION

Local 109/Local 49

Be it resolved that the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee Report be accepted.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND SERVICES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

National Executive Representative Anna Goldfinch presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

2015/01:036 MOTION TO AMEND OPERATIONS POLICY

Local 99/Local 49

Whereas Bylaw XI.15 stipulates that the Chairperson must undertake suitable language training prior to assuming the office of Chairperson, that they must be tested to determine their potential to be bilingual, and that bilingualism training is mandatory; and

Whereas there is no Operations Policy detailing how the Chairperson must go about achieving these requirements; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario values Aboriginal and French languages as languages of resistance as seen through its Aboriginal Students Constituency Group and Francophone and Bilingual Caucus; therefore,

Be it resolved that the Operations Policy on “Chairperson-Elect” be amended to include the following:

Second Language Proficiency

In the event that the Chairperson-Elect is not proficient in the second language as defined in Bylaw XI.15 at the time of election, the Federation will arrange for second language resources from a public institution to be made available. Any courses, programs or other resources used to gain second language proficiency shall be concluded no later than 8 weeks after the start of the Chairperson’s term.

Second language proficiency will be considered the ability to:

- Comprehend the second language; and
- Communicate with member locals in the second language.

Be it further resolved that a method for assessing First Nations Languages be done in consultation with the Aboriginal Students’ Constituency Group Commissioner.

2015/01:061 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 94/Local 97

Be it resolved that motion 2015/01:036 be amended to read:

Second Language Proficiency

In the event that the Chairperson-Elect is not proficient in the second language as defined in Bylaw XI.15 at the time of election, the Federation will provide for second language resources and training for second language proficiency. Any courses, programs or other resources used to gain second language proficiency shall be concluded no later than 8 weeks after the start of the Chairperson’s term.

Second language proficiency will be considered the ability to:

- Comprehend the second language; and
- Communicate with member locals in the second language.

Be it further resolved that a method for assessing First Nations Languages be done in consultation with the Aboriginal Students’ Constituency Group Commissioner.

CARRIED

2015/01:036 CARRIED

2015/01:038 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 99/Local 49

Whereas Bylaw II.5.e.v mandates that the hours of voting be determined by the Chief Returning Officer; and

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Whereas Bylaw II.5.a.ii requires that the exact hours of voting be included in the petition calling for a referendum, thereby creating a conflict in the Bylaws; and

Whereas it is preferable to allow the Chief Returning Officer to determine the hours of voting, with the added benefit that this would make the Bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario congruent with the Bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students; and

Whereas Bylaw II.5.a.ii requires that the exact dates of voting be included in the petition calling for a referendum; and

Whereas the minimum number of voting days are stipulated in Bylaw II.5.c.ii but should be included in Bylaw II.5.a.ii in order to avoid confusion; and

Whereas there should be a maximum number of voting dates; and

Whereas the Federation's national Bylaws prescribe a maximum of five (5) voting days; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw II.5.a.ii be amended to read:

The petition must include the exact dates of the proposed vote, provided that there shall be no fewer than two (2) and no greater than five (5) days of voting. No vote on decertification shall be scheduled between April 15 and September 15 or between December 15 and January 15;" and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II.5.c.ii be deleted.

CARRIED

2015/01:040 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 99/Local 49

Whereas the Bylaws currently mandate no fewer than 2 weeks of campaigning for a referendum in addition to campaigning during the vote; and

Whereas this results in a minimum requirement of up to 3 weeks of campaigning; and

Whereas this can be excessive, especially at smaller member local associations; and

Whereas there is currently no maximum campaign period; and

Whereas the Federation's national Bylaws require a minimum of 1 week and a maximum of 2 weeks for campaigning prior to the voting period; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw II.3.b.i. and Bylaw II.5.b.i. be amended to read:

Campaigning shall take place for no less than one (1) week and no greater than two (2) weeks preceding the vote during which time classes are in session, and on each and every day on which voting is to occur.

CARRIED

2015/01:042 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 99/Local 49

Whereas the Federation is incorporated under the Ontario Corporations Act (OCA); and

Whereas the OCA will shortly be replaced with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA); and

Whereas the Federation has commenced the process of becoming compliant with ONCA, including making revisions to ensure that the Federation's current structure of having only one class of membership is maintained; therefore

Be it resolved that the Bylaw II.1 be amended to include, at the start:

Membership

General Description: There is one (1) category of member of the Federation: local student associations representing individual students who have been admitted as members by the Federation (the "member local association"). Membership entails membership in the chartering organization, Canadian Federation of Students; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II.1 "Full Membership" be re-named "Membership Status – Full Membership" and that the "General Description" section be deleted; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II.2 "Prospective Membership" be re-named "Membership Status – Prospective Membership" and that the "General Description" section be deleted; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaws II.1 "Full Membership" and Bylaw II.2 "Prospective Membership" be incorporated within Bylaw II.1; and

Be it further resolved that all references to "voting member local" in the Bylaws be replaced with "member local association;" and

Be it further resolved that all references to "individual members" and "individual members of the Federation" in the Bylaws be replaced with "students;" and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II.1 be amended to include the following:

- g. The students collectively belonging to a local student association have the right to have their interests represented collectively in the Federation through their local student association, but, for greater certainty, are not members of the Federation and accordingly will not have voting rights at Federation general meetings; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw I – Definitions, Section 6. "Individual Members" be deleted; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw II.2.i. be amended to read: "A prospective member local association shall have full voting rights at general meetings and shall have the same access to Federation resources and materials;" and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw VIII.7.a be amended to read: "A nominee for a position as Local Representative on the Executive Committee must be a member of the member local association in question."

2015/01:062 MOTION TO AMEND
Local 105/Local 97

Be it resolved that the first paragraph in motion 2015/01:042 entitled "Membership" be amended to read:

The students collectively belonging to a member local association have the right to have their interests represented collectively in the Federation through their member local association, but, for greater certainty, are not members of the Federation and accordingly will not have voting rights at Federation general meetings; and

CARRIED

2015/01:042 CARRIED

2015/01:063 MOTION

Local 41/Local 97

Be it resolved that the Organizational and Services Development Report be accepted.

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATION OF THE POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Ontario Fieldworker Michelle LeBlanc presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

2015/01:014 MOTION TO ADOPT ISSUES POLICY

Local 68/Local 102

Whereas mental health has become a prominent topic of discussion at colleges and university; and

Whereas a number of colleges and universities are engaging in research on addressing mental health on campus; and

Whereas student input is integral part of discussion and decision making with regard to mental health strategies on campus; therefore

Be it resolved that that the following Issues Policy be adopted:

MENTAL HEALTH

Preamble

Students arriving at a post-secondary institution for the first time need to adapt to significant changes, including but not limited to moving to a new area, separation from family and friends, establishing a new social network, managing a budget given the realities of high tuition fees, combining academic study with other commitments, coping with access in a new environment and, for international students, living in a new country and adjusting to a different culture. While these changes can be exciting and challenging and an intrinsic part of the attraction of going to university or college, they can also give rise to anxiety and stress.

Students may experience emotional or psychological difficulties that without appropriate professional support are more persistent and inhibit their ability to participate fully in higher education. These difficulties may take the form of a long-term mental illness or a temporary, but debilitating, psychological condition or reaction. In addition, some students may arrive at university or college with a pre-existing psychological problem, either declared or undeclared.

Mental health problems can seriously impair academic performance and overall behaviour. Minor difficulties that interfere with a student's capacity to work may also result in distress and undermine academic progress.

Policy

The Federation supports mental health strategies that:

- Utilize on-campus committees mandated to investigate mental health services and ensure adequate delivery of quality service. These committees should be comprised of representatives of the institution, students' union representatives, student group representatives, faculty associations and staff unions;
- Recognize the diversity of experiences faced by students in post-secondary institutions;

- Consider the impacts of high tuition fees and un/underemployment on students' mental health;
- Adequately fund and provide resources for campus mental health and counselling services, including crisis and trauma centers;
- Work to destigmatize mental health issues within the student population and promote a culture of safety in discussing these issues; and
- Respect the confidentiality of personal information provided by students and service-users

2015/01:064 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 47/Local 68

Be it resolved that motion 2015/01:014 be amended to read:

MENTAL HEALTH

Preamble

Students adapting to a post-secondary institution need to adjust to significant changes, including but not limited to moving to a new area, separation from family and friends, establishing a new social network, managing a budget given the realities of high tuition fees, combining academic study with other commitments, coping with access in a new environment and, for international students, living in a new country and adjusting to a different culture. Moreover, students for whom English or French is not their first language may have additional difficulty expressing mental health issues and engaging with mental health services on their campus. While these changes can be exciting and challenging and an intrinsic part of the attraction of going to university or college, they can also give rise to anxiety and stress.

Students may face challenges, experience stress and/or a personal crisis, which without appropriate supports inhibit their ability to participate fully in higher education. These difficulties may take the form of long-term or temporary, but debilitating mental health conditions. In addition, some students may arrive at university or college with a pre-existing psychological condition, either declared or undeclared.

Mental health issues can seriously impair academic performance and overall behaviour. Minor difficulties that interfere with a student's capacity to work may also result in distress and undermine academic progress. Post-secondary institutions have a responsibility to provide adequate services and support to promote the mental wellness of students, staff, faculty and other members of their community.

Policy

The Federation supports mental health strategies that:

- Use on-campus committees mandated to investigate mental health services and ensure adequate access to and delivery of quality professional services. These committees should be comprised of representatives of the institution, students' union representatives, student group representatives, faculty associations and staff unions;
- Prioritize the representation of individuals with lived experience of mental health struggles who may be able to significantly contribute to the discussion to improve mental health services on campus;
- Recognize the diversity of experiences faced by students in post-secondary institutions;
- Recognize the impact of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, colonialism and other forms of oppression on the mental health of members of marginalized communities;

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- Recognize the unique needs of mature and part-time, graduate and distance education students as well as students operating outside of a first-language context;
- Consider the impacts of high tuition fees, underemployment and unemployment on students' mental health;
- Ensure adequate funding and resource provision for campus mental health and counselling services, including crisis and trauma centres;
- Work to destigmatize mental health issues within the student population and promote a culture of safety in discussing these issues; and
- Respect the confidentiality of personal information provided by students and service-users.

CARRIED

2015/01:065 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 82/Local 41

Be it resolved that motion 2015/01:014 be amended to include:

- Acknowledge and respect traditional ways of spiritual healing.

CARRIED

2015/01:014 CARRIED

2015/01:016 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 24/Local 102

Whereas in the past year there have been at least 3 cases of unarmed black men killed by police officers in the United States; and

Whereas in September 2014, Jermaine Carby was shot and killed by the peel regional police during a police traffic stop in Brampton, Ontario; and

Whereas several eyewitnesses recount that Jermaine was unarmed when he was shot by police; and

Whereas every day black youth get carded, frisked and pulled over by police simply for being black; and

Whereas black people make up nearly one in 10 of the 15,000 inmates in Canada's federal prisons; and

Whereas anti-black racism is the systemic and institutional discrimination against black people; and

Whereas when challenging racism it is imperative to include the distinct experiences of black people; therefore

Be it resolved that the policy titled "Racism" be amended to include the following:

The Federation supports member locals challenging and seeking to eliminate systemic anti-black racism in post-secondary education, the justice system and other public institutions; and

The Federation opposes anti-black racism, which is systemic and institutional discrimination against black people.

CARRIED

2015/01:020 MOTION TO AMEND ISSUES POLICY

Local 98/Local 102

Whereas flat fees unfairly burden students to pay more for their education if they choose to take fewer classes; and

Whereas the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities is implementing a mandatory increase for all flat fee thresholds from 60% to 80% course load; and

Whereas the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has placed a moratorium on any new flat fee structures in Ontario for two years; and

Whereas while this has relieved the burden of flat fees on many undergraduate students, flat fees still apply to many graduate and college students in Ontario; therefore

Be it resolved that the following be added to the “Federation supports” section of the Tuition and User Fees Issues Policy:

- That if tuition fees are charged, they be applied on a per-term, per-credit basis; and

Be it further resolved that the following be added to the “Federation opposes” section of the Tuition and User Fees Issues Policy:

- Any type of flat fees charged to students based on full or part-time status, based on type of student (i.e.: graduate, college, professional) or program of study.

2015/01:066 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 94/Local 98

Be it resolved that the second point in motion 2015/01:020 be amended to read:

- Any type of flat fees charged to students based on full- or part-time status, type of student (e.g. graduate, college, professional) or program of study.

CARRIED

2015/01:020 CARRIED

2015/01:067 MOTION

Local 94/Local 92

Be it resolved that the Policy Review and Development Report be accepted.

CARRIED

7. PRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL OFFICER’S REPORT

Electoral Officer Bilan Arte presented the Electoral Report.

2015/01:068 MOTION

Local 105/Local 99

Be it resolved that Rajean Hoilett be ratified as Chairperson for the 2015-2016 term.

CARRIED

2015/01:069 MOTION

Local 105/Local 99

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Be it resolved that Gabrielle Ross-Marquette be ratified as National Executive Representative for the 2015-2016 term; and

Be it further resolved that Gabrielle Ross-Marquette's name be submitted to the Canadian Federation of Students' Nominating Committee for ratification as the Ontario National Executive Representative at the June 2015 National General Meeting.

CARRIED

2015/01:070 MOTION

Local 105/Local 99

Be it resolved that Sami Pritchard be ratified as Treasurer for the 2015-2016 term.

CARRIED

2015/01:071 MOTION

Local 107/Local 106

Be it resolved that the report of the Chief Returning Officer be accepted; and

Be it further resolved that the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Representatives provided reports on behalf of caucuses and constituency groups.

Woods and Goldfinch provided closing remarks.

9. ADJOURNMENT

2015/01:072 MOTION

Local 24/Local 41

Be it resolved that plenary adjourn.

CARRIED