



Report on the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario Annual General Meeting

August 2019

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Attended by:

Name:	Position:	Organization:
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Terms:

“CFS”/“CFS-O”	The Canadian Federation of Students, or the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario; also referred to in this report as “the Federation”.
“Circle”	Circle of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Students (Caucus)
“OSD”	Organizational and Services Development Committee
“Local”	A Member of the CFS; the local campus students’ union. For example, the UTSU is Local 98
“Member”	Refers to the Locals within the CFS. Sometimes (and confusingly) used interchangeably with “Student Member”.
“NGM”/“AGM”	May refer to the National General Meeting, the Annual General Meeting, or the Semi-Annual General Meeting of the CFS.
“Plenary”	CFS Meetings are based around the Opening and Closing Plenaries. The Opening Plenary is when all motions are considered and approved to send to the various committees. The Closing Plenary is the final decision making body of the CFS’ General Meeting, wherein the various reports of the committees are considered by the Members. The Closing Plenary is where all final debate takes place.
“Constituency Group”	A Constituency Group, as defined by the CFS-NGM Delegate Guide, is “composed of individual delegates who share a common characteristic as recognized by the Federation.”
“Caucus”	A Caucus, as defined by the CFS-NGM Delegate Guide, is “a grouping of member local associations with common characteristics.”
“Ontario Executive Committee” or “OEC”	A group consisting of the Chairperson, National Executive Representative, Treasurer, and the seven (7) non-voting at-Large representatives, as well as one (1) representative from the thirty-four (34) Ontario Member Locals. The OEC acts as the Board of Directors for the CFS-Ontario under the <i>Ontario Corporations Act</i> .



Structure of the CFS Meeting:

There is a complex organizational structure behind CFS meetings which will be explained within this section of the report. We will lay out the various organizational structures and how they work.

Meetings of the CFS-Ontario are much like the meetings of the National organization, with slight but meaningful differences. The biggest and most noticeable difference between the two organizations is the ability for Member Locals to have an automatic vote at every committee. This allows member locals to feel more free in their decisions, as they represent their own constituents -- unlike the National system of representing a Constituency Group/Caucus.

Purpose of the Meeting: to allow member locals to engage with the structure, campaigns and long-term plans of the CFS-Ontario. During the time between the Opening and Closing Plenaries of the meeting, delegates are allowed to attend various groups and sessions. Delegates are only permitted to attend the Constituency Groups and Caucuses representing a community they identify with. Each Member Local has the ability to submit motions to the CFS-Ontario for consideration prior to a General Meeting. These motions will be debated by the assembly, and a decision will be made at the Closing Plenary.

The Constituency Groups and Caucuses are as follows:

Constituency Groups:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women's Constituency Group 2. Two-Spirit/Queer Constituency Group 3. Students with Disabilities Constituency Group 4. Ontario Circle of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students Constituency 5. International Students Constituency Group 6. Racialized Students Constituency Group 7. Mature Students Constituency Group 8. Two-Spirit/Trans Spectrum Constituency Group 9. *Council of Constituency Representatives <p>*The Council of Constituency Representatives is comprised of one (1) representative of each constituency group listed above.</p>
Caucuses:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ontario Graduate Caucus 2. Northern Region Caucus 3. Francophone and Bilingual Caucus 4. Part Time and Continuing Education Caucus



Constituency Groups and Caucuses

At the CFS-Ontario Annual General Meeting, UTSU delegates were able to join Caucuses and Constituency groups based on their individual demographic information. This allowed them to participate in discussions about advocating for the particular groups they belong to, as well as discussing motions that were presented to the CFS-O plenary sessions and committees.

- Joshua Bowman - could not attend any of the above listed Constituency Groups/Caucuses
- Lucas Granger - attended the Two-Spirit/Queer Constituency Group
- Ameera Karim - attended the Racialized Students Constituency Group and Women's Constituency Group
- Avani Singh - attended the International Students Constituency Group and Women's Constituency Group
- Tyler Riches - attended the Two-Spirit/Queer Constituency Group

Committees and Forums

The Standing Committees are as follows:

Standing Committees and Forums
<p>Definitions from the Operations Policy - General Meetings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year for submission to the closing plenary of the annual general meeting; ● Review and recommend budget adjustments for the remainder of the fiscal year to the closing plenary of the Annual General Meeting; ● Assess the availability of funds for proposed projects and/or purchases, including donations; and ● Undertake long-term financial planning for the Federation. 2. Campaigns and Government Relations Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess the recent and ongoing campaigns of the Federation; ● At the Annual General Meeting, adopt a campaigns and government relations plan for the year ahead, for presentation to the closing plenary, that includes but is not limited to goals of the campaigns; and ● Make general recommendations concerning the implementation of the campaigns and government relations plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Government relations strategy; ○ Research and information compilation; ○ Communications strategy; ○ Media strategy;



- Membership mobilization; and
- Coalition work.
- 3. Organizational and Services Development Committee
 - Review and make recommendations to closing plenary on the structure of the Federation, including:
 - The Ontario Executive Committee;
 - The Ontario office; and
 - All other structures of the Federation.
 - Review and make recommendations to closing plenary on the services of the Federation;
 - Review the development of the profile of the Federation within member local associations;
 - Review and make recommendations to the closing plenary on the communication tools of the Federation;
 - Review and make recommendations to the closing plenary on the development of new members; and
 - Review and make recommendations to the closing plenary on proposed amendments to the Federation's Bylaws and Operational Policy.
- 4. Policy Review and Development Committee
 - "The Policy Review and Development Committee shall review and make recommendations to closing plenary on proposed amendments to the Issues Policy of the Federation."

- Joshua Bowman - Budget Committee
- Lucas Granger - Organizational and Services Development Committee
- Ameera Karim - *Policy Review and Development Committee (Day 1), Organizational and Services Development Committee (Day 2)
- Avani Singh - Organizational and Services Development Committee
- Tyler Riches - *Policy Review and Development Committee (Day 1), Organizational and Services Development Committee (Day 2)

*Policy Review and Development Committee ended after Day 1, and so our delegates came to OSD in order to provide their voices to the motions we presented there



The Meeting

Our Motions:

These are the motions that we submitted to the CFS-Ontario Annual General Meeting. They cover a range of desired changes to the Canadian Federation of Students, including allowing for more democratic processes, the introduction of a new Low-Income Constituency Group, and various freedoms for student media and record keeping.

Amended sections, or new items, are highlighted in **Yellow**:

Changes on Vote to Certify, Decertify, and Referenda (2019/08:N19) Recommended to Organizational and Services Development Committee
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Whereas the Ontario Government's Student Choice Initiative (SCI) and cuts to education threaten the financial survival of CFS-Ontario by allowing individual students to opt-out of CFS-Ontario funding;

Whereas the SCI makes it more difficult for member locals to identify their total number of their student members and accurate, up-to-date lists of their current student members;

Whereas adding a minimum number of petition signatures and voting quorum as additional options would help maintain stability and avoid costly lawsuits that would detract from CFS-Ontario's efforts to mobilize student resistance to the SCI;

Whereas CFS-Ontario Bylaw II, Section 1. a) vii states that "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," which asks the question why a local member association, as the representative of their students and a member of CFS-Ontario, cannot trigger a referendum to decertify via a vote of their board of directors;

Whereas becoming a prospective member of CFS-Ontario requires a vote of the local member association's board of directors as outlined in Bylaw II, Section 1. b) i. instead of a petition;

Whereas providing an option for a local member association's Board of Directors vote in addition to a petition option to decertify would save both CFS-Ontario and local member associations money in administration and staffing costs to certify petition signatures, which could be especially beneficial given the SCI;

Whereas General Meetings are the best way for local member associations to interact with their members in determining whether their student members want to decertify;



Whereas physical paper petitions are inaccessible to a variety of student demographics, including but not limited to students with disabilities, students who commute to campus, students in co-operative education programs, exchange students, students on exchange, and students enrolled solely in online courses;

Be it resolved that Bylaw II be amended as follows:

BYLAW II – MEMBERSHIP

1. 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.

a. Membership Status – Full Membership

i. A local students' association in Ontario is eligible to apply for full membership only if its members have approved full membership in a referendum held within the preceding nine (9) months. The referendum must have included approval of a membership fee totalling the Canadian Federation of Students fee, the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario fee, and the Canadian Federation of Students-Services fee.

ii. The official wording for a referendum to join the Federation shall include only the following: - “Do you wish to become a member of the Canadian Federation of Students?”

iii. Full membership status becomes effective at such time as it is approved by: - The plenary of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario; or - The plenary of the Canadian Federation of Students.

iv. The Federation's full membership fee for each member local association comprised exclusively of full-time students, or of both full and part-time students, shall be no less than \$2.50 per semester, or \$5.00 per academic year, per local association individual member, pro-rated as per the practice of the member local association with regard to the levying of its local association fee. The Federation's full membership fee for each member local association comprised exclusively of part-time students, shall be no less than \$1.25 per semester, per local association individual member, pro-rated as per the practice of the member local association with regard to the levying of its local association fee.

v. Beginning in 1996, the Federation's membership fee shall increase on August 1 each year by the rate of increase in the national Consumer Price Index during the previous calendar year.

vi. Students collectively belonging to a member local association will have the authority to initiate, by petition signed by either fifteen per cent (15%) of the students or four-thousand (4000) students, whichever is less, and served to the Federation's Executive Committee, a vote on decertification as described in this Bylaw, and that also entails a vote on decertification in the Canadian Federation of Students, subject to compliance with the Bylaws of the national chartering organization.

vii. The member local association will additionally have the authority to initiate a vote on decertification as described in this Bylaw, and that also entails a vote on decertification in



the Canadian Federation of Students, subject to compliance with the Bylaws of the national chartering organization. The member local association may choose to initiate a vote on decertification in three ways, through a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote at the member local association's Board of Directors, through a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of those present at a general meeting of the member local association, or through a simple majority of those who vote in a referendum compliant with the Bylaws and regulations of the member local association.

viii. 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.

b. Membership Status – Prospective Membership

i. A local students' association in Ontario is eligible to apply for prospective membership if it has passed a motion of its executive, council or equivalent representative body to apply for prospective membership in the Canadian Federation of Students.

ii. Prospective membership status becomes effective at such time as it is approved by: Bylaw II – Membership Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario - The plenary of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario; or - The plenary of the Canadian Federation of Students.

iii. The prospective membership fee for local associations is five percent (5%) of the Federation's full membership fee notwithstanding that the fee may be reduced or waived by a majority vote at an Ontario general meeting or the Executive Committee.

iv. A prospective member association must hold a vote on certification in the Federation, in accordance with Section 3 of this Bylaw, within twelve (12) months following its acceptance as a prospective member unless an extension is granted by the Executive Committee of the Federation;

v. In the event that the majority of those voting on certification support full membership in the Federation, full membership will be granted at the subsequent Ontario general meeting, at which point prospective membership shall cease;

vi. In the event that the majority of those voting on certification oppose full membership in the Federation, prospective membership will immediately cease;

vii. In the event that the vote on certification fails to achieve quorum, prospective membership will be automatically extended and another vote on certification will be held within the subsequent six (6) months in accordance with Section 3 of this Bylaw; and

viii. In the event that a prospective member local association fails to conduct a vote on certification as required by this Bylaw, the Federation shall have the option to either cancel or extend, by majority vote of a Ontario general meeting, the prospective membership until a vote on certification is conducted. There shall be a two (2) year waiting period between the expiration of prospective membership status before a subsequent prospective membership application will be accepted, unless waived by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote at a Federation general meeting.



- ix. A prospective member local association shall have full voting rights at general meetings and shall have the same access to Federation resources and materials.
2. Vote to Certify Students belonging to a prospective member local association may vote on becoming full members of the Federation, subject to the following rules and procedures:
- a. Notice Notice of a vote to become full members must be delivered by registered mail to the head office of the Federation not less than one (1) month prior to the start of the voting.
 - b. Campaigning
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Students and representatives of the member local association, representatives of the Federation and representatives of other Federation member local associations shall be permitted to participate in the campaign.
 - iii. Campaign materials shall not be misleading, defamatory or false. The Chief Returning Officer shall be the sole arbiter of whether materials are misleading, defamatory or false.
Bylaw II – Membership Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
 - c. Voting
 - i. Voting must be conducted by paper ballot and cannot be conducted in any other manner. Voting must take place at voting stations or, subject to the agreement of the Federation, at a general meeting of the prospective member association or by mail-out ballot;
 - ii. There shall be no less than sixteen (16) hours of polling over no less than two (2) days, except in the case of voting being conducted at a general meeting;
 - iii. In the event that polling is conducted at a general meeting, representatives of the Federation and Federation member local associations shall be extended full speaking rights in the meeting; and
 - iv. It shall be the responsibility of the member local association to obtain and provide to the Federation, no later than seven (7) days in advance of the vote, a list of all of the students eligible to participate in the vote. If the member local associations is unable to obtain or provide such a list, voting shall be conducted through a double envelope system, whereby the ballot is placed in an unmarked envelope, which is placed in a second envelope, on which the voter writes their full name and student identification number. After voting ends the envelopes will be compared to a list of the students who are eligible to participate in the vote. Duplicate ballots and ballots cast by ineligible voters shall be discarded. Once the validity of the votes has been verified, the outer envelopes will then be separated from the unmarked inner envelopes and tabulated.
 - d. Quorum



In the event of a referendum conducted through paper ballot at polling stations, quorum for the vote shall be ten percent (10%) of the students of the local association, or four-thousand (4000) students of the local association, whichever is lower.

In the event of a vote conducted at a general meeting of the member association, quorum for the vote shall be that of the local member association, with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the votes required for a decision to certify.

e. Chief Returning Officer

For each vote to certify, a Chief Returning Officer shall be appointed in accordance with the Bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students. The Chief Returning Officer shall oversee the referendum and be responsible for:

- i. Establishing the notice requirement for the referendum in accordance with the Bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students;
- ii. Establishing the campaign period in accordance with Section 5.b of this Bylaw;
- iii. Approving all campaign materials in accordance with Section 5.b of this Bylaw and removing campaign materials that have not been approved;
- iv. Deciding the number and location of polling stations;
- v. Setting the hours of voting in accordance with Section 5.e of this Bylaw;
- vi. Overseeing all aspects of the voting;
- vii. Counting the ballots following the vote; and
- viii. Establishing all other rules and regulations for the vote.

f. Appeals

For each vote to certify, an Appeals Committee shall be appointed to adjudicate any appeals of the referendum results or rulings by the Chief Returning Officer in accordance with the Bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students. Bylaw II – Membership Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario

3. Application for Full and Prospective Membership

- a. Within sixty (60) days of receipt by the Executive Committee of the Federation of an application in writing for full and prospective membership, the Executive Committee shall consider the application and make a recommendation to the member local associations of the Federation regarding the application.
- b. There shall be a vote of the member local associations of the Federation at the next general meeting on the question of approving a recommendation of the Ontario Executive Committee regarding an application for membership. A majority of at least two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) shall be required to accept the application.

4. Vote to Decertify

A member local association may vote on whether to decertify in two ways, subject to the following rules and procedures:



a. Petition

i. A petition calling for a vote on decertification in the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario, that has been circulated, collected and submitted by individuals belonging to the member local association in question, and that is signed by a notary public, must be delivered by registered mail to the head office of the Federation not less than six (6) months prior to the vote;

ii. 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;

iii. There shall be no more than two (2) votes on decertification in any three-month period. In the event that there are more than two (2) valid petitions calling for a vote on decertification during any three-month period, the Executive Committee shall: - Consider the petitions in the order in which they are received; and - Schedule alternate voting dates for the third and subsequent petitions that call for a vote on decertification within any three-month period.

iv. The petition shall be worded as follows: “We the undersigned petition the Executive Committee of the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario to conduct a vote on decertification from the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario;”

v. The original, unaltered petition must be delivered in its entirety. Petitions received that are not original copies, have been altered in any manner, or have been received by any means other than registered mail are not valid;

vi. The petition must not contain any words or images, with the exception of those required by Bylaw 2, Section 5.a., and those required indicating which fields a signatory must complete;

vii. In order to be valid, a name on a petition must be reasonably legible, include the proper full name, be accompanied by a valid and corresponding student identification number and a unique signature;

viii. The Executive Committee will have the sole authority to determine whether the petition described in Bylaw 2, Section 5.a. is in order; Bylaw II – Membership Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario

ix. An individual member may request that her name be removed from a petition. If the Executive Committee receives such a request in writing before the conclusion of the verification process of the petition, the name must be struck from the petition. The name shall not be included in the total number of names on the petition; and

x. Failure to adhere to the petition provisions in Article 5 (a) shall invalidate the results of the vote.

b. Vote of the Local Member Association Board of Directors



- i. A decision calling for a vote on decertification in the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, that has been approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the local member association's Board of Directors, with a letter signed by legal counsel that witnessed the vote must be delivered by registered mail to the head office of the Federation not less than six (6) months prior to the vote;
 - ii. The letter and decision must include either the decision to hold the vote at a general meeting, or 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;
 - iii. There shall be no more than two (2) votes on decertification in any three-month period. In the event that there are more than two (2) valid letters calling for a vote on decertification during any three-month period, the Executive Committee shall:
 - Consider the letters in the order in which they are received; and
 - Schedule alternate voting dates for the third and subsequent letters that call for a vote on decertification within any three-month period.
 - iv. The motion to vote on decertification at a local member association must include the wording as follows: "Be it resolved that the _____ request from the Executive Committee of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario to conduct a vote on decertification from the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario;"
 - v. The original, unaltered letter must be delivered in its entirety. Letters that are not original copies, have been altered in any manner, or have been received by any means other than registered mail are not valid.
 - vi. In order to be valid, the letter must contain an original signature from legal counsel and a representative of the local member association;
 - vii. The Executive Committee will have the sole authority to determine whether the petition described in Bylaw 2, Section 5.a. Is in order;
 - viii. Failure to adhere to the to the provisions in Article 5(a) shall invalidate the results of the vote.
- c. Campaigning**
- i. 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; and
 - ii. Students and representatives of the member local association, representatives of the Federation and representatives of other Federation member local associations shall be permitted to participate in the campaign.
 - iii. Campaign materials shall not be misleading, defamatory or false. The Chief Returning Officer shall be the sole arbiter of whether materials are misleading, defamatory or false.
- d. Voting**



- i. Voting must be conducted by paper ballot and cannot be conducted in any other manner. Voting must take place at voting stations or, subject to the agreement of the Federation, at a general meeting of the member association or by mail-out ballot.
- ii. In the event that polling is conducted at a general meeting, representatives of the Federation and Federation member local associations shall be extended full speaking rights in the meeting.
- iii. It shall be the responsibility of the member local association to obtain and provide to the Federation, no later than seven (7) days in advance of the vote, a list of all of the students eligible to participate in the vote. If the member local association is unable to obtain or provide such a list, voting shall be conducted through a double envelope system, whereby the ballot is placed in an unmarked envelope, which is placed in a second envelope, on which the voter writes their full name and student identification number. After voting ends, the envelopes will be compared to a list of the students who are eligible to participate in the vote. Duplicate ballots and ballots cast by ineligible voters shall be discarded. Once the validity of the votes has been verified, the outer envelopes will then be separated from the unmarked inner envelopes and tabulated.

e. Quorum

In the event of a referendum conducted through paper ballot at polling stations, quorum for the vote shall be ten percent (10%) of the students of the local association, or four-thousand (4000) students of the local association, whichever is lower.

In the event of a vote conducted at a general meeting of the member association, quorum for the vote shall be that of the local member association, with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the votes required for a decision to certify.

f. Chief Returning Officer

For each vote to decertify, a Chief Returning Officer shall be appointed in accordance with the Bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students. The Chief Returning Officer shall oversee the referendum and be responsible for:

- i. Establishing the notice requirement for the referendum in accordance with the Bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students;
- ii. Establishing the campaign period in accordance with Section 5.b of this Bylaw; Bylaw II – Membership Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario

Media Policy (Issues) (2019/08:N20)
Recommended to Policy Review and Development Committee

Whereas recognized student-led campus publications are a valuable resource to spread the word about CFS-Ontario victories, initiatives, and calls to action;

Whereas the Ontario Government's Student Choice Initiative, cuts to education, and significant detrimental changes to OHIP+ require CFS-Ontario to mobilize student resistance and campaign for positive policy change;



Whereas effective mobilization requires conducting outreach to as many students as possible;

Whereas recognized student-led campus publications can help increase CFS-Ontario's outreach capacities significantly;

Whereas recognized student-led campus publications are under threat by far-right forces that seek to write them off as fake news;

Whereas excluding recognized student-led campus publications contributes to their delegitimization and plays into the hands of the far-right;

Whereas restricting access to relevant information about the Federation's decision-making makes it more difficult for marginalized students to become informed about decisions that affect their student movement and participate, which could be interpreted as discrimination against students who are most in need;

Be it resolved that the Issues Policies be amended as follows:

Media

Preamble

Independent student organizations on campus are vital to the creation of a vibrant community. Having a space where students can self-organize and create news is a necessary part of this community. The campus press allows for students to tell their own stories, challenge the decisions made by institutional decision-making structures, expose injustices on campus and inform the general student body about events organized on campus. The campus press can also empower students to become storytellers or journalists, and tell stories about their own communities that may be left out of the mainstream press. Student publications should be autonomous and offer a student-centred perspective that tends to be absent from university or college publications produced by administration

Policy

The Federation supports:

- Editorial autonomy of student publications;
- The fair remittance of student levies passed democratically that guarantee funding for student newspapers; and
- The Canadian University Press and their Statement of Principle.
- **Recognized student-led campus publications attending and reporting on General Meetings of the Canadian Federation of Students, including both the Opening and Closing Plenary, and all committee meetings, and excluding caucuses and constituency group meetings.**

The Federation opposes:



- Campus journalism that contravenes the Ontario Human Rights Code and/or contravenes the civil liberties/human rights policy of the Federation;
- Publications that are established and controlled by the campus administrations as an affront to independent newspapers on campus; and
- Interference in the collection or remittance of student levies for student media outlets by institutional administrations
- **Student Unions who infringe on the autonomy and integrity of recognized student-led campus publications**

Media Policy (Operational) (2019/08:N21)
Recommended to Organizational and Services Development Committee

Whereas the effective dissemination of knowledge is vital to student empowerment;

Whereas the current situation regarding the Ontario Government's cuts to education and significant detrimental changes to OHIP+ requires CFS-Ontario to mobilize student resistance;

Whereas the Ontario Government's Student Choice Initiative makes communicating the relevance of CFS-Ontario vital to the Federation's existence;

Whereas recognized student-led campus publications are a valuable resource to spread the word about CFS-Ontario victories, initiatives, and calls to action;

Whereas alienating recognized student-led campus publications may result in coverage that lacks sufficient perspectives and presents a less accurate depiction of events;

Whereas recognized student-led campus publications are under threat by far-right forces that seek to write them off as fake news;

Whereas excluding recognized student-led campus publications contributes to their delegitimization and plays into the hands of the far-right;

Whereas restricting access to relevant information about the Federation's decision-making makes it more difficult for marginalized students to become informed about decisions that affect their student movement and participate, which could be interpreted as discrimination against students who are most in need;

Be it resolved that the Operations Policies be amended as follows:

General Meetings

- **Media**

The Federation shall allow one English and one French representative from the Ontario Bureau of the Canadian University Press **and recognized student-led campus publications** to attend and observe General Meetings upon agreement to the following conditions:

- Media shall be allowed to observe plenary sessions and workshops, but shall not have speaking rights during such sessions;



- Media shall be allowed to cover plenary sessions, workshops, and committees of the Federation in any manner with the exception of audio or video recordings; and

- Media shall not be permitted to cover meetings of caucuses and constituency groups;

- Media shall be allowed to interview willing delegates in a way that does not distract from delegate participation.

The rights and conditions will be made explicit in resultant agreements between the Federation and the Ontario Bureau of the Canadian University Press.

None of the rights of the media supersede the Rules of Order utilized by the Federation or any other policy of the Federation.

Minutes Policy (Operational) (2019/08:N22)
Recommended to Organizational and Services Development Committee

Whereas the Federation has a need and responsibility to further communicate with its member locals and their members;

Whereas recording discussion of items within the minutes leads to further transparency;

Whereas recording discussion of items within the minutes leads to better institutional memory as to why decisions were made;

Whereas a better institutional memory helps prevent unnecessary repetition and allows long-term progress to be made instead of stagnation;

Whereas avoiding repetition saves the Federation time and money that could be directed to advancing vital student causes;

Whereas records of discussion are beneficial for those who could not attend meetings;

Whereas the Federation has previously included records of discussions in their minutes;

Whereas records of discussion help legitimize the Federation as a democratic body of student representation, which would help in the campaign to resist the Ontario Government's Student Choice Initiative and cuts to education and significant detrimental changes to OHIP+;

Be it resolved that the Operations Policies be amended as follows:

Addition to Operations Policy – General Meetings:

Publication and Archiving of Minutes

Minutes of each General Meeting's Open Plenary, Closing Plenary, and meetings of Committees of the Federation will be archived internally and posted on the Federation's website no later than sixty (60) days after the conclusion of said General Meeting.

The minutes that are posted shall include highlights of discussions and records of decisions, providing that no identification of individuals, member locals, constituency group, or caucus representation is included during discussions and votes.



**Addition of Low-Income Constituency Group (Operational) (2019/08:N23)
Recommended to Organizational and Services Development Committee**

Whereas students from low-income families and/or backgrounds face significant barriers to education and in society as a whole;

Whereas poverty is a global issue that needs to be alleviated;

Whereas the effects of poverty are intergenerational;

Whereas the current Ontario Government is putting low-income students at risk through actions like cutting education funding, grants, and grace periods for paying back OSAP loans, as well as significant detrimental changes to OHIP+;

Whereas low-income students have much to offer the Ontario student movement;

Whereas student poverty restricts the potential of the Ontario student movement;

Be it resolved that the Operations Policies be amended as follows:

Operations Policies - Constituency Groups

Current Constituency Groups

The current Constituency Groups are:

- Women's Constituency Group
- Queer and Trans Constituency Group
- Students with Disabilities Constituency Group
- Ontario Circle of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students Constituency
- International Students Constituency Group
- Racialized Students Constituency Group
- Mature Students Constituency Group
- **Low Income Students Constituency Group**
- Council of Constituency Representatives

Operations Policies - Constituency Groups

Terms of Reference

h. The Low-Income Students Constituency Group

i. Name

The organization shall be known as the Low-Income Students Constituency Group.

ii. Objectives



The objectives of the Constituency Group shall be:

- To accept the principles and purposes of the Federation;
- To promote communication and co-operation between low-income student groups in postsecondary education institutions across Ontario;
- To promote communication and co-operation between low-income student groups in postsecondary education institutions across Ontario;
- To act as an agent of social change as defined by low-income students who are present at a General Meeting of the Federation;
- To provide a forum for low-income student issues and concerns;
- To represent low-income student issues and concerns within the Federation;
- To facilitate communication between low-income students, and other student groups; and
- To play a role in the recruitment of eventual low-income student membership.

iii. Membership

Membership of the constituency group shall include all students that define themselves as low-income students including, but not limited to, those students who have been out of school for three or more years, students with dependants and/or students over the age of twenty-three (23) who are delegates at general meetings of the Federation. This membership shall participate and vote at all meetings of the Federation. This membership shall participate and vote at all meetings of the Constituency Group. Subject to ratification by the Constituency Group, this Constituency Group may also include students who are nondelegate representatives of member or non-member associations.

iv. Rights and Privileges of Members

Members of the Constituency Group have the following rights and privileges: - To attend any meeting of this Constituency Group and to speak to any matter or motion that may arise. The remaining rights and privileges of members, including but not limited to the right to elect a Commissioner and the right to vote at a Constituency Group meeting shall be determined by the Constituency Group.

v. Meetings Meetings of the constituency group may take place at any general meeting of the Federation at which members of the Constituency are present. Meetings of the Constituency Group shall be announced by word of mouth and/or by print.

vi. Low-Income Students Constituency Group Commissioner The Low-Income Students Constituency Group Commissioner shall be elected by and from the membership of the Low-Income Students Constituency Group at the Annual General Meeting. The term of office of the Low-Income Students Constituency Group Commissioner shall commence at the close of the Annual General Meeting at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the subsequent Annual General Meeting.

vii. Duties of the Commissioner



The duties of the commissioner shall be:

- To act as the spokesperson of the Low-Income Students Constituency Group on issues of concern to the Constituency Group;
- To implement campaigns as determined by the Constituency Group; and
- To communicate with the Federation's Ontario office, the Executive Committee, the constituency group commissioners, participants at General Meetings, and member associations on issues of the Constituency Group

h. Council of Constituency Representatives (CCR)

i. The Council

The Ontario Council of Constituency Representatives shall be known as the Council.

ii. Composition

The Council shall be **comprised** of representatives from each constituency group of the Federation. Each constituency group will have one (1) representative per constituency:

- Ontario Circle of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Commissioner
- Ontario Disability Students Constituency Commissioner
- Ontario International Students Constituency Commissioner
- Ontario Low-Income Students Constituency Commissioner**
- Ontario Mature Students Constituency Commissioner
- Ontario Queer and Trans Students Constituency Commissioner
- Ontario Racialized Constituency Commissioner
- Ontario Women's Constituency Commissioner
- Ontario Constituency Coordinator

The Council shall also be comprised of the following non-voting members:

- Ontario Chairperson
- Ontario National Executive Representative
- Ontario Treasurer

iii. Number of votes Each council representative shall have one (1) vote.

iv. Terms of Office of the Council

The term of the office for the positions on the Council shall commence at the close of the Annual General Meeting at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the subsequent Annual General Meeting.

v. Meeting of the Council

a. Frequency of Meetings



i. The Council shall meet at least twice (2) times between regularly scheduled general meetings of the Federation.

b. Quorum

i. At least fifty-one per cent (51%), but never less than 5 of the voting positions on the Council that are currently filled shall constitute quorum for the transaction of business. Non-voting positions on the Executive Committee shall not count towards quorum.

c. Notice of Meeting

i. Formal notice of all Council meetings shall be communicated to each member of the Council no less than ten (10) days before the meeting is to take place. Meetings of the Council shall be held without notice, if all the Council representatives are present, or if those who are absent waive notice, or signify their consent in writing to the meeting being held in their absence.

d. Calling a Meeting The Council meeting shall be formally scheduled by:

a. The Council of Constituency Representatives;

b. The Ontario Constituency Coordinator, at the discretion in writing of three (3) voting members of the Council.

vi. Election of the Constituency Council Representatives The election of each member of the Council shall happen at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation and those positions will start upon the ratification of the results.

vii. Filling a vacancy of a Council Representative

In the event that a Council Representative resigns or is removed from office the position will be deemed vacant. A by-election may happen at the Semi- Annual meeting if this vacancy happened before that meeting.

viii. Eligibility

a. A nominee for a position as a Council Representative must be a member of the Federation.

b. A nominee for the position must be a delegate at the Ontario Component General Meeting at which the position is being filled.

c. A nominee for the position must be nominated by at least two delegates from which constituency group they are running to get elected from.

ix. Voting Procedure

a. Election for each council representative position shall be conducted within each constituency group.

b. If no candidate receives a clear majority on the first ballot. There shall be successive ballots and the candidate(s) with the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the next ballot until one (1) candidate has a clear majority. Clear majority is fifty percent plus one.

x. Remuneration of Council Representatives Upon completion of office each Council



Representative shall receive a remuneration of \$500 on condition that they have demonstrated their participation in a majority of in person meetings, conference calls and other council events. This remuneration does not replace any remuneration a representative receives from sitting on the Ontario Executive.

xi. Code of Ethics Council representatives shall be required to sign the declaration of commitment to the Federation's Code of Ethics in order to be voting members of the Council.

Motions N19, N21, N22, and N23 were all recommended to the Organizational and Services Development Committee. Motion N20 was recommended to the Policy Review and Development Committee. With the high volume of motions that were submitted to OSD this meeting, N21, N22, and N23 were brought to the Closing Plenary without recommendation. N19 was recommended to fail at OSD, while N20 passed at Policy Review and Development with amendments.

The fates of the motions are as follows, with amendments or revisions highlighted in Green:

<p>2019/08:N19: Changes on Vote to Certify, Decertify, and Referenda (Failed)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attempts were made by us at Closing Plenary to amend the motion to be more in line with the criticism we received at OSD, these changes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing the maximum number of signatures required to read "fifteen per cent (15%) of the students or four thousand (4000) five-thousand (5000) students, whichever is less" - Removing the ability for a Member Local Board of Directors to vote on calling a decertification referendum (keeping the AGM and Referendum options). This is under Bylaw 1.4.b in our submitted amendment.
<p>2019/08:N20: Media Policy (Issues) (Carried with Amendments)</p>
<p>The Federation supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Editorial autonomy of student publications; - The fair remittance of student levies passed democratically that guarantee funding for student newspapers; and - The Canadian University Press and their Statement of Principle. <p>- Recognized student-led campus publications attending and reporting on General Meetings of the Canadian Federation of Students, including both the Opening and Closing Plenary, and all committee meetings, and excluding caucuses and constituency group meetings.</p>



- Recognized student-led campus publications attending and reporting on General Meetings of the Canadian Federation of Students, including both the Opening and Closing Plenary, and excluding committees, caucuses and constituency group meetings.

The Federation opposes:

- Campus journalism that contravenes the Ontario Human Rights Code and/or contravenes the civil liberties/human rights policy of the Federation;
- Publications that are established and controlled by the campus administrations as an affront to independent newspapers on campus; and
- Interference in the collection or remittance of student levies for student media outlets by institutional administrations

- Student Unions who infringe on the autonomy and integrity of recognized student-led campus publications

- The obstruction on the autonomy and integrity of recognized student-led campus publications.

2019/08:N21: Media Policy (Operational)
(Carried with amendments)

General Meetings

- Media

The Federation shall allow one English and one French representative from the Ontario Bureau of the Canadian University Press and recognized student-led campus publications to attend and observe General Meetings upon agreement to the following conditions:

- Media shall be allowed to observe plenary sessions and workshops, but shall not have speaking rights during such sessions;

~~- Media shall be allowed to cover plenary sessions, workshops, and committees of the Federation in any manner with the exception of audio or video recordings; and~~

- Media shall be allowed to cover plenary sessions of the Federation in any manner with the exception of audio or video recordings; and

~~- Media shall not be permitted to cover meetings of caucuses and constituency groups;~~

- Media shall be allowed to interview willing delegates in a way that does not distract from delegate participation.

The rights and conditions will be made explicit in resultant agreements between the Federation and the Ontario Bureau of the Canadian University Press.

None of the rights of the media supersede the Rules of Order utilized by the Federation or any other policy of the Federation.



2019/08:N22: Minutes Policy (Operational)
(Carried with amendments)

Publication and Archiving of Minutes

Minutes of each General Meeting's Open Plenary, Closing Plenary, and meetings of Committees of the Federation will be archived internally and posted on the Federation's website no later than ~~sixty (60)~~ thirty (30) days after the conclusion of ~~said General Meeting~~ the General Meeting at which the minutes were approved.

The minutes that are posted shall include highlights of discussions and records of decisions, providing that no identification of individuals, member locals, constituency group, or caucus representation is included during discussions and votes.

2019/08:N23: Addition of Low-Income Constituency Group (Operational)

Motion was defeated immediately after the motivation, with virtually no time given to amend or motivate further due to a Call to Question.

Outcomes

- Passing both Media Policy changes. This allows for recognized student-led publications to attend and cover Plenary sessions of the CFS-Ontario. Considering that the CFS-Ontario typically meets in Toronto, this would allow for student-led publications such as The Varsity, [the Eyeopener](#), and other local student papers to cover live. Despite their amendments to not include committees (which is where we believe most of the fruitful discussion happens), allowing Plenary sessions is a huge step for transparency.
- The addition of a Minutes Policy. This policy now allows for proper records of discussion to be made at the Plenary sessions of the CFS-Ontario. Currently, we only see a record of decision, without any historical knowledge or reasoning as to why those decisions were made. By allowing these minutes to be published, we can have a comprehensive historical reasoning for why decisions are made.
- The failure of more democratic reform within the CFS-Ontario. By failing N19, the CFS-Ontario once again proves that it is an anti-democratic institution. During the Closing Plenary session, other member locals refused our good-faith amendment (based on their own criticism) to remove the Board of Directors vote option. However, after they failed our amendment, they continued to use that same argument to fail the entire motion. This was proof that the CFS-Ontario member locals don't regard our motions, as they could have passed the amendment and continued to fail the motion as it stood.



- The failure of allowing more spaces for Low-Income Students. Member locals used arguments that said that issues of low-income students could be discussed at other constituency groups. This is great in theory, however the meetings of the constituency groups are typically filled with discussions of motions, the election of their commissioner, and other unrelated issues. This leaves very little time for the discussion of issues within that constituency group, let alone the intersectionality of issues that must be discussed.

Concluding Thoughts:

Having attended both the CFS-National Semi-Annual General Meeting, and now the CFS-Ontario Annual General Meeting, it is easy to differentiate how the two organizations operate.

With the CFS-National, the organization proves itself inaccessible to its Member Locals, especially within the Constituency Group and Caucus system -- where delegates must debate over who should have seats at the committee tables. This system takes away from the work that delegates attend the CFS are supposed to do, as it becomes virtually impossible to have a say if you are not elected to a committee. In addition to this, the National Executive is also an alien institution to most Member Locals, and is generally inaccessible to those who provide any criticism to the CFS.

On the CFS-Ontario end, the organization still has many of the same issues of inaccessibility to its' Member Locals, however they provide a few more benefits to attending meetings. Two mechanisms for Member Locals to have a say are guaranteed to each Member Local. The first of which is a dedicated representative on the Ontario Executive Committee (OEC). The OEC is equivalent to the National Executive, except it has dedicated seats for each local, and has regular meetings both online and in-person, which allows a greater clarity to understanding the organization. The second way to involve oneself is to attend the CFS-Ontario General Meetings. At the General Meetings, each Member Local has one vote on every committee -- which allows the committees to function more fruitfully as there is no confusion amongst delegates as to who they represent within the room.

These added benefits of the CFS-Ontario do not absolve them of the issues that also plague the national organization. The vast majority of CFS Member Locals come from Ontario, and as such many of the locals hold resentments and grudges from many years ago — even if the executives from that era have cycled out. This leads to rumours being spread about our delegation in order to discredit the positions we take. In addition to this, delegates from other locals became particularly hostile towards certain members of our delegation, often for no reason. These actions make it hard to support the organization, especially when other



Member Locals believe our delegation comes to these meetings with ill-intentions from the beginning. Delegations from other Member Locals specifically drive our delegations away, and make no attempt at being reconciliatory with us.

Resources/Further Reading:

- [CFS-Ontario: Bylaws- Amended as of August 2019](#)
- [CFS-Ontario Issues Policy: Amended as of August 2019](#)
- [CFS-Ontario Operations Policy: Amended as of August 2019](#)
- [2015 UTSU Draft Report on the CFS](#)
- [2018 UTSU Report on the November CFS NGM](#)
- [2019 \(June\) UTSU Report on the CFS National S-AGM](#)