

Trudeau asked to extend Fiscal Arrangements Act

OTTAWA (CUP) - The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) met with Prime Minister Trudeau on January 15 and asked for a two year extension of the Fiscal Arrangements Act "to allow time for the development of a Canadian policy for universities."

According to AUCC President Michael Oliver of Carleton University, the PM's response was "warm" and "sympathetic", "showed a great deal of understanding", but was non-committal.

The PM, Oliver said, did not state whether he saw the need for a "Canadian policy for universities"

or whether he intended to grant the universities the requested two-year extension of present financing arrangements.

The Fiscal Arrangements Acts, which provides each province with federal grants equal to 50 percent of the cost of post-secondary education, is due to expire next year.

The AUCC, an association of presidents of Canada's degree granting institutions, say they have had no opportunity to work out, in co-operation with the federal and provincial governments a coherent policy on what

universities are supposed to be doing.

Until a "national advertising policy" is developed, the AUCC and the universities do not want to see any "fundamental changes" in the federal-provincial cost-sharing arrangements for post-secondary education, said Oliver.

The AUCC, however, did not put forward any concrete plan of what a "national universities policy" might entail, except that it would involve accepting the idea of "regional centres of excellence" in various disciplines.

As explained by Oliver following

the meeting with the PM, this would require identification and maintenance of existing prestigious graduate schools, while cutting off funds for similar programmes at other institutions.

Oliver said the university and college presidents are planning a series of meetings with representatives of provincial governments aimed at coming up with a national policy, with the first meeting scheduled for March.

He was not clear on whether the federal government would participate in these discussions, or even attend, and suggested that the PM had taken a "wait and see" attitude.

Oliver did make one thing perfectly clear, though. Just because the presidents are unset

over being cut out of federal-provincial decision-making which affects them doesn't mean they intend to abandon their long-held tradition of excluding the participation of others.

When asked who would attend the March meeting, Oliver replied "Executive heads of universities ... provincial government representatives ... some people from provincial funding commissions ... that's it."

He agreed that input from students, faculty, and the general public would be "necessary" for developing a national universities policy "at some time", but failed to specify when.

The March meetings will be closed to all but invited participants.

Company of Young Canadians still negotiating date of shutdown

OTTAWA (CUP) - The Company of Young Canadians, ordered by the federal government to disband as of December 31, is still in operation. But the main issue now isn't whether the CYC will go out of operation, but when.

The struggle between the CYC and the federal Treasury Board was supposed to have come to a head on January 14, the date the Treasury Board said the CYC had to give its 450 employees notice of termination.

That date has passed, and although CYC has reluctantly accepted its demise, "negotiations are still in progress" over when that demise will occur, according to a CYC spokesperson.

The CYC arguments for not going out of existence at the time the government ordered are the Company has 221 projects still underway, and its employers will need time to find alternate employment.

According to CYC chairperson Simon Noel, if the Company had dissolved on December 31 it would

have created "absolute chaos" for those community groups now receiving assistance from CYC organizers.

The CYC, unlike traditional bureaucracies, doesn't set up services for a community. Instead, the mandate of the Company, now withdrawn by the government, was to go into communities and assist local groups - tenants, parents, pensioners, the poor - in setting up services and co-ops which they themselves would operate. CYC involvement would terminate after a set time-period had elapsed.

CYC couldn't just close shop and walk away, Noel said, because "the Company feels it has a priority to assist these community groups to either find alternate forms of assistance or attempt to gain self-sufficiency more quickly than originally planned."

Noel and the CYC board say the need at least two months to wind-up project operations in a way that will not result in the collapse of the projects and groups currently being organized.

The other problem Noel and the CYC board see is that the 328 organizers out in local communities will need at least an additional two months severance pay to support them while they seek new jobs.

Since the pay scale for the CYC was considerably less than the bureaucratic average - between \$116 and \$149 weekly - the CYC is quick to point out that the possibility of saving for a rainy day, let alone for an impending financial disaster, is slim.

clash from page 1

Parker said one reason for the enthusiasm and determination shown by the Moncton students might have been based on the fact that Francophone students in New Brunswick, on the whole representing a lower socio-economic state than other students, felt more strongly that the changes be implemented.

Universite de Moncton seems to be gaining some support as Dan O'Connor, executive for National Union of Students, arrived in Fredericton late Thursday afternoon to give support to the cause.

These students seem determined to stick to their guns, even at the expense of losing an academic year, if necessary.

By laws continued

S.7. Any member of the SRC is liable for removal from the SRC upon a motion calling for that members resignation at a regularly constituted meeting of the SRC.

S.8. Any motion calling for a members resignation must be preceded by at least one week by way of notice of motion.

S.9. Any motion calling for a members resignation may only take effect upon:

i. two-thirds approval of the SRC after notice of motion has been given

ii. a petition calling for members resignation signed by 20% of the Union members and preceded by at least one week's notice to the SRC. After one week's notice any such petition shall have the effect of removal of any member that is the subject of the said petition without any further ratification by the SRC.

S.10. Any member removed by a petition or motion calling for his resignation may automatically be a candidate in any election called to fill any such vacancy.

S.11. Any provision in this Article is subject to the Constitution.

ARTICLE VII Eligibility.

S.1. No student who is not a Union member shall take part in any SRC or Union sponsored activities.

S.2. Students withdrawing from the University after the 1st day of November shall not have their SRC fees refunded.

ARTICLE VIII By-Elections.

S.1. If for any reason the position of any member of the SRC becomes vacant that vacancy shall be filled as soon as possible subject to other provisions in the Constitution or these By-laws.

S.2. Within one week of any such vacancy being declared by the President the Returning Officer shall initiate procedures to fill such vacancy or vacancies.

S.3. The Returning Officer may, depending upon circumstances existing at that time, obtain a two-thirds approval from the SRC for having the total time period from the date of calling for nominations until the actual vote shortened by up to 40%. In all other aspects the procedures of a regular election shall be followed and this section does not permit the omission of any notice requirements for any election held under this section.

S.4. No By-elections shall be called if that

call would be within two weeks of the call for nominations of a regular Spring or Fall Election.

ARTICLE IX General.

S.1. Signing powers in relation to any financial transaction of the SRC shall be vested in the Comptroller, Assistant Comptroller, Administrator or President, any two of whom must sign.

S.2. There shall be an Administrator of the SRC who shall perform the function of an office manager for the SRC and shall carry out his duties in accordance with the terms of reference established by the SRC.

S.3. There shall be an Assistant Comptroller who shall assist the Comptroller in any duties that may be assigned to him by the Comptroller. Any such Assistant Comptroller shall be appointed each year by the Comptroller upon 2/3 approval by the SRC within 2 weeks of the Fall Election.

S.4. The Returning Officer shall be charged with the general responsibility of running any elections called under the authority of the SRC. The Returning Officer shall have the power of referring any infraction of any election procedures directly to the SRC for any action necessary.

S.5. All campus organizations under the authority of the SRC shall hold their election of officers before the first day of March of each year and shall submit to the Internal Vice-President of these requirements in the first half of February.

S.6. A copy of all correspondence

conducted by the SRC and the various organizations shall be kept on file for a period of eighteen months. Such correspondence shall be available for investigation, if so ordered by the SRC or on the written request of twenty-five members of the student body.

S.7. A copy of the SRC Constitution must be kept on file in the SRC Office and in the University Library.

S.8. Any member of the SRC may be given a salary or honorarium. The quantum of such salary or honorarium shall be determined by the Administrative Board each year. In no case shall any such salary or honorarium increase by more than 12% over a previous years quantum.



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