

MINUTES

Opening Plenary

34th Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services)
Sunday, November 22 to Wednesday, November 25, 2015

CALL TO ORDER—Sunday, November 22, 2015

16:32 the meeting was called to order by National Chairperson Bilan Arte.

1. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

| | | |
|-----------|---|---------|
| Local 03 | University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan | Absent |
| Local 73 | Vancouver Community College Students' Union | Present |
| Local 75 | Camosun College Student Society | Present |
| Local 18 | Douglas Students' Union | Proxy |
| Local 33 | Emily Carr Students' Union | Proxy |
| Local 26 | Kwantlen Student Association | Absent |
| Local 61 | Vancouver Island University Students' Union | Present |
| Local 13 | College of New Caledonia Students' Union | Proxy |
| Local 72 | North Island Students' Union | Absent |
| Local 66 | Northwest Community College Students' Union | Present |
| | Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society* | Absent |
| Local 53 | Okanagan College Students' Union | Proxy |
| Local 86 | College of the Rockies Students' Union | Absent |
| Local 04 | Selkirk College Students' Union | Present |
| Local 15 | Thompson Rivers University Students' Union | Absent |
| Local 42 | Alberta College of Art and Design Students' Association | Absent |
| Local 21 | University of Calgary Graduate Students' Association | Absent |
| Local 90 | First Nations University of Canada Students' Association | Present |
| Local 09 | University of Regina Students' Union | Present |
| Local 101 | University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association | Present |
| Local 17 | University of Saskatchewan Students' Union | Absent |
| Local 37 | Brandon University Students' Union | Present |
| Local 96 | University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association | Absent |
| Local 103 | University of Manitoba Students' Union | Present |
| Local 38 | Association Étudiante de l'Université de Saint-Boniface | Present |
| Local 08 | University of Winnipeg Students' Association | Present |
| Local 82 | Algoma University Students' Union | Present |
| Local 112 | Association générale des étudiantes et étudiants du Collège Boréal | Absent |
| Local 102 | Brock University Graduate Students' Association | Present |
| Local 78 | Carleton University Graduate Students' Association | Present |
| Local 01 | Carleton University Students' Association | Absent |
| Local 107 | Association étudiante de La Cité collégiale | Present |
| Local 92 | Student Association of George Brown College | Present |
| Local 93 | Glendon College Students' Union | Absent |
| Local 54 | University of Guelph Central Student Association | Present |
| Local 62 | University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association | Absent |
| Local 32 | Lakehead University Student Union | Present |
| Local 111 | Laurentian Student Union | Present |
| Local 30 | Laurentian University Students' General Association | Absent |
| Local 110 | Laurentian University Graduate Students' Association | Present |
| Local 88 | Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones de l'Université Laurentienne | Present |
| Local 104 | Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-time Students | Absent |
| Local 39 | McMaster University Graduate Students' Association | Absent |
| Local 20 | Nipissing University Student Union | Present |
| Local 25 | Ontario College of Art and Design Students' Union | Present |
| Local 41 | Student Federation of the University of Ottawa/ Fédération étudiante de l'Université d'Ottawa | Present |
| Local 94 | University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association des étudiant(e)s diplômé(e)s de l'Université d'Ottawa | Present |
| Local 27 | Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students | Absent |
| Local 24 | Ryerson Students' Union | Present |

PAGE 2 – OPENING PLENARY MINUTES

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| Local 105 | Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson | Present |
| Local 85 | Saint Paul University Students' Association | Absent |
| Local 99 | Scarborough Campus Students' Union | Present |
| Local 19 | University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union | Present |
| Local 97 | University of Toronto Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students | Present |
| Local 98 | University of Toronto Students' Union | Present |
| Local 109 | University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union | Present |
| Local 71 | Trent Central Student Association | Present |
| Local 47 | University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students | Absent |
| Local 56 | Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Students' Association | Absent |
| Local 48 | University of Windsor Graduate Students' Society | Present |
| Local 106 | Organization of Part Time University Students (University of Windsor) | Present |
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| Local 68 | York Federation of Students | Present |
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| Local 45 | Marine Institute Students' Union | Present |
| Local 100 | Graduate Students' Union of Memorial University of Newfoundland | Present |
| Local 35 | Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union | Present |
| Local 46 | College of the North Atlantic Students' Union | Present |

* Prospective member

Arte declared that quorum had been reached.

Arte noted that observers from the Dalhousie Students' Union have been invited to the meeting.

2015/11:001 MOTION

Local 11/Local 94

Be it resolved that delegates of the Dalhousie Students' Union be granted speaking rights for the duration of the meeting.

CARRIED

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROXIES

Arte said that the Federation's Bylaws enabled a voting member that was unable to attend all or portions of a general meeting to appoint another member to act as its proxy for all or portions of the meeting. Arte announced that Local 13 had designated Local 4 as its proxy, Local 33 designated Local 72 as its proxy, Local 18 designated Local 61 as its proxy and Local 53 designated Local 73 as its proxy for the meeting.

3. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER

Arte announced that, due to a last minute cancellation by the external plenary speaker, she would be chairing opening plenary.

4. WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Arte provided welcoming remarks.

5. ADOPTION OF THE PLENARY AGENDA

2015/11:002 MOTION

Local 99/Local 109

Be it resolved that the agenda for the opening and closing plenaries of the 34th annual national general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) be adopted.

CARRIED

6. ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

2015/11:003 MOTION

Local 97/Local 69

Be it resolved that the agenda for the 34th annual national general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) be adopted.

CARRIED

7. ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

2015/11:004 MOTION

Local 41/Local 45

Be it resolved that the minutes of the 68th semi-annual general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services) be adopted.

CARRIED

8. OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES

a. Rules of Order and Plenary Procedures

Arte provided a review of Robert's Rules of Order, the system of meeting rules and procedures that are employed for plenary sessions, plenary sub-committee meetings and caucus meetings, as well as additional rules and procedures established by standing resolution.

b. Anti-Harassment Procedures for the General Meeting

Anti-Harassment Advisors Quinn Blue and Jessica Thyriar provided a brief orientation to the Federation's harassment policy and procedures for the meeting. Delegates were encouraged to familiarise themselves with the policy and to be sensitive to how their actions could affect other delegates.

c. Presentation by the Federation's Staff Relations Officer

Dubinski provided an overview of the collective agreement between the Federation and its employees as it pertains to the rights and responsibilities of Federation employees at national general meetings. She noted that the employees of the Federation had the right to attend and participate in all meetings of the employer with the exception of those meetings that included discussions of discipline, discharge and negotiations. She said that the staff often had experience and provided context for a number of the issues that delegates would discuss over the course of the meeting.

9. CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Arte stated that there were no changes in membership to report.

10. PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

Arte said that the National Executive had elected a nominations committee, and invited their representative, Hildah Otieno, to provide an overview of the elections procedure. Otieno explained that elections would be conducted at the general meeting for the following positions

PAGE 4 – OPENING PLENARY MINUTES

34th Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services)
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on the National Executive for the 2016-2017 term: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer, Women's Representative, New Brunswick Representative, and College and Institutes Representative. Otieno also identified that two positions on the Appeals Committee were open for election, and that nominations would follow the same schedule as the elected positions on the National Executive.

Otieno reviewed timelines for elections and referred delegates to the agenda for the general meeting for additional information.

11. ADOPTION OF STANDING PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEE AND FORUM AGENDA

a. Striking of Plenary Sub-Committees

Arte said that, as per Standing Resolution 1, Section 1, the following sub-committees and forum of the plenary would be struck:

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

2015/11:005 MOTION

Local 102/ Local 49

Be it resolved that the agendas of the Budget Committee, Campaigns and Government Relations Forum, Policy Review and Development Committee and Organisational and Services Development Committee be adopted.

CARRIED

12. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS SERVED WITH DUE NOTICE

2015/11:006 MOTION

Local 8/ Local 105

Whereas youth unemployment rates are double the national rate; and

Whereas there has been an increase in the number of unpaid internships; and

Whereas minimum wages across the country are failing to keep pace with rising tuition and living costs; and

Whereas there is no effective federal strategy to tackle youth unemployment and underemployment; and

Whereas our members are directly impacted by rising youth unemployment, erosion of entry level paid work and declining job quality; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation develop a campaign aimed at addressing youth unemployment and underemployment, including the following pillars: action on unpaid internships, a living wage of \$15.00 per hour and a feasible national youth jobs strategy; and

Be it further resolved that this campaign include short, medium and long term goals; and

Be it further resolved that this campaign be proposed at the National General Meeting in June 2016.

2015/11:007 MOTION TO REFER

Local 109/Local 08

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/11: 006 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Forum for review and consideration.

CARRIED

2015/11:006 REFERRED

- 2015/11:008 MOTION**
Local 8/ Local 105
Whereas the Ethical Purchasing Network (EPN) exists to provide materials that are ethically produced; and
Whereas the EPN helps member local students' unions purchase goods at a local rate; and
Whereas a significant portion of the Federation's membership endures extremely cold winters; and
Whereas member local students' unions have noticed an increase in requests for winter apparel; therefore
Be it resolved that the Federation's Ethical Purchasing Network include the following items: mittens, scarves, tuques and hoodies/sweatshirts; and
Be it further resolved that these new items be made available for fall orientation 2016; and
Be it further resolved that these new items can be customized.
- 2015/11:009 MOTION TO REFER**
Local 109/Local 08
Be it resolved that Motion 2015/11:008 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee for review and consideration.
CARRIED
- 2015/11:008 REFERRED**
- 2015/11:010 MOTION**
Local 8/ Local 105
Whereas ISIC UK offers a considerable range of discounts; and
Whereas ISIC UK boasts incredibly usage; and
Whereas ISIC UK offers many high quality discounts; and
Whereas the quality and quantity of discounts offered by ISIC UK exceeds ISIC Canada; therefore
Be it resolved that the National Executive be tasked with investigating the techniques and strategies employed by the UK's National Union of Students (NUS); and
Be it further resolved that the Executive-at-Large establish a stronger relationship with the NUS to aid in the study of ISIC UK's success and to build international solidarity between students.
- 2015/11:011 MOTION TO REFER**
Local 109/Local 08
Be it resolved that Motion 2015/11: 010 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee for review and consideration.
CARRIED
- 2015/11:010 REFERRED**
- 2015/11:012 MOTION**
Local 78/ Local 105
Whereas the National Graduate Caucus (NGC) has a campaign focused on the corporatization of universities, which has not been updated for several years; and
Whereas the corporatization campaign of the NGC focuses primarily on the commercialization of research and space on campus, but does not address the ways in which universities are increasingly governed as for-profit corporations and the limiting of democratic participation by students, faculty and campus staff; and
Whereas the corporatization campaign of the NGC highlights important issues but is impersonal and without practical goals, making it difficult for locals to use the campaign as a basis for organizing; therefore

PAGE 6 – OPENING PLENARY MINUTES

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Be it resolved that the corporatization campaign of the National Graduate Caucus (NGC) be expanded to include a focus on academic governance and the rights of students to participate in the affairs of the university; and

Be it further resolved that the corporatization campaign of the NGC be expanded to incorporate practical goals for on-campus organizing; and

Be it further resolved that new materials be developed that connect the corporate agenda to students' everyday experiences on campus.

2015/11:013

MOTION TO REFER

Local 109/Local 08

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/11:013 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Forum for review and consideration.

CARRIED

2015/11:012

REFERRED

2015/11:014

MOTION

Local 35/ Local 105

Whereas education is a right; and

Whereas students with disabilities face a variety of barriers to accessing post-secondary education; and

Whereas the duty to accommodate is widely recognized in legal jurisprudence and federal and provincial human rights codes; and

Whereas post-secondary institutes have a duty to accommodate the learning needs of students; and

Whereas post-secondary policies and practices do not always live up to an acceptable standard when it comes to upholding the duty to accommodate; and

Whereas in September 2015 a student at Memorial University was denied accommodation by an employee drawing nationwide attention to an institutional failure to live up to the commitment to fully and reasonably accommodate students; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation undertake an education and action campaign around the need for adequate policies and practices concerning accommodation for students at the post-secondary level.

2015/11:015

MOTION TO REFER

Local 109/Local 08

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/11:014 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Forum for review and consideration.

CARRIED

2015/11:014

REFERRED

2015/11:016

MOTION

Local 35/ Local 105

Whereas the Federation successfully lobbied Elections Canada to facilitate on campus voting across the country in advance of the federal election; and

Whereas in the first three days of voting more than 42,000 students voted including over 2,000 students at Memorial; and

Whereas the opportunity for students to vote on campus for their home riding will greatly improve the accessibility of voting for students; and

Whereas voting on campus was a pilot project that will likely be evaluated following the federal election; therefore

Be it resolved that Elections Canada be lobbied to make on campus voting a permanent part of its advance voting program, and

Be it further resolved that Elections Canada be lobbied to expand on campus voting to all post-secondary institutions in the country.

2015/11:017

MOTION TO REFER

Local 109/Local 08

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/11:016 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Forum for review and consideration.

CARRIED

2015/11:016

REFERRED

2015/11:018

MOTION

Local 7/ Local 105

Whereas marginalized groups face continuous and unique forms of oppression, marginalization, violence, occupation and silencing within our campuses and our communities; and

Whereas education about privilege, intersectionality and prejudice is not integrated within the majority our education structure or curricula; and

Whereas anti-oppression workshops while useful, are not the definitive solution to combat discrimination within our membership; and

Whereas racialized communities, including students, have been continuously mobilizing on campaign initiatives that combat systemic and institutionalized racism and colonialism, and state sanctioned violence, most recently through campaign initiatives such as Idle No More and Black Lives Matter; and

Whereas racialized communities and anti-racism campaigns have been systematically targeted on and off campus as a means of silencing this important work; and

Whereas racialized students need spaces to be able to talk about their experiences, share stories and support each other in their work both on and off campus to combat racism and colonialism; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation host a national student summit to combat racism and colonialism both on and off campus; and

Be it further resolved the summit coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21st 2016; and

Be it further resolved that the summit be hosted as a space open only to racialized students, so that they may gather, participate in story telling and share resources on combating racism and colonialism both on and off campus; and

Be it further resolved that an agenda and objectives for the summit be developed in consultation with the National Racialized Students Representative, and the National Racialized Students Constituency group.

2015/11:019

MOTION TO REFER

Local 109/Local 08

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/11:018 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Forum for review and consideration.

CARRIED

2015/11:018

REFERRED

2015/11:020

MOTION

Local 37/ Local 105

Whereas the OOHLALA Mobile application is not useful; and

Whereas the Federation is paying for a service that isn't benefitting members; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation end its relationship with OOHLALA Mobile as soon as possible.

2015/11:021

MOTION TO REFER

Local 109/Local 08

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/11:020 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee for review and consideration.

CARRIED

2015/11:020

REFERRED

PAGE 8 – OPENING PLENARY MINUTES

34th Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services)
Sunday, November 22 to Wednesday, November 25, 2015

2015/11:022 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 98/ Local 105

Whereas individual members have the right to start petitions to enter and leave the Federation; and

Whereas the threshold to start a vote to certify is ten percent (10%) of students and the threshold to start a vote to decertify is twenty percent (20%) of students; and

Whereas the decertification petition requires double the amount of signatures compared to the certification petition; and

Whereas the amount of signatures required to start a decertification petition is unreasonably high for larger Locals to obtain; and

Whereas the decertification process nevertheless entails a democratic referendum posed to a membership following the petition; and

Whereas members have the right to accessible, democratic bylaws; therefore

Be it resolved that the bylaws be amended such that a petition to start a vote on decertification can be called by fifteen percent (15%) of members; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw 1.3 a. iii be amended to read as follows:

The students collectively belonging to a local student association will have sole authority to initiate a vote on decertification, as described in Bylaw I, Section 6, by submitting to the National Executive of the Federation a petition, signed by not less than fifteen percent (15%) of such students, calling for the vote.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw 1.6 be amended to reflect this change and that the first paragraph of Bylaw 1.6 be amended to read as follows:

As per Bylaw I, Section 3.a.iii a petition calling for a vote on decertification shall be signed by no less than fifteen percent (15%) of the students collectively belonging to the member local student association and delivered to the National Executive of the Federation.

Be it further resolved that any other reference to this threshold in any operating documents or publications of the Federation be amended to reflect this change

2015/11:023 MOTION TO REFER

Local 68/Local 73

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/11:022 be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee for review and consideration.

CARRIED

2015/11:022 REFERRED

2015/11:024 MOTION

Local 38/ Local 105

Whereas the Federation is composed of member local students' unions; and

Whereas the member local students' unions create complimentary and original Federation campaigns; and

Whereas the Federation is stronger when we are united and in solidarity;

Whereas open access to information is valued in the Federation; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation fast-track and launch an information portal that includes, blogs, video posting, messaging, graphic design and other relevant materials.

2015/11:025 MOTION TO REFER

Local 109/Local 08

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/11: 024 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Forum for review and consideration.

CARRIED

2015/11:024 REFERRED

2015/11:026 MOTION

Local 69/Local 105

Whereas the quality of French post-secondary education varies from one institution to the other; and

Whereas some students who enrolled in a programme in French end up having to complete the programme in English; and

Whereas the members of the Francophone Students Constituency Group and the Bilingualism Forum have had several discussions about the importance of accessible post-secondary education for francophone students; therefore,

Be it resolved that a working group be created to examine the state of post-secondary education in French in Canada.

2015/11:027 MOTION TO REFER

Local 109/Local 08

Be it resolved that Motion 2015/11:026 be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Forum for review and consideration.

CARRIED

2015/11:026 REFERRED

13. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

2015/11:028 MOTION TO REFER

Local 92/Local 36

Be it resolved that the Presentation of the National Executive Report be tabled until Closing Plenary.

CARRIED

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dubinski made a number of logistical announcements.

15. RECESS

18:26 the meeting recessed until 2:00pm on Wednesday, November 25, 2015.

MINUTES

Closing Plenary

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CALL BACK TO ORDER—Wednesday, November 25, 2015

15:33 the meeting was called back to order by National Chairperson Bilan Arte.

1. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

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| Local 03 | University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan | Absent |
| Local 73 | Vancouver Community College Students' Union | Present |
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| Local 88 | Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones de l'Université Laurentienne | Present |
| Local 104 | Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-time Students | Absent |
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| Local 27 | Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students | Absent |
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* Prospective member

Arte declared that quorum had been reached.

2. PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORT

Members of the National Executive provided an overview of the National Executive report and responded to questions from the floor.

2015/11:29 MOTION
Local 109/Local 32
Be it resolved that the report of the National Executive be adopted.
CARRIED

3. PRESENTATION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Manitoba Representative Michael Barkman presented the Budget Committee Report.

2015/11:30 MOTION
Local 68/Local 69
Be it resolved that the revised 2015-16 budget be adopted as presented.
CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION OF CAMPAIGNS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS FORUM REPORT

Deputy Chairperson Anne-Marie Roy highlighted sections of the Campaigns and Government Relations Forum Report.

a. Proposal on youth unemployment and underemployment

2015/11:006 MOTION
Local 8/Local 105
Whereas youth unemployment rates are double the national rate; and

Whereas there has been an increase in the number of unpaid internships; and

Whereas minimum wages across the country are failing to keep pace with rising tuition and living costs; and

Whereas there is no effective federal strategy to tackle youth unemployment and underemployment; and

Whereas our members are directly impacted by rising youth unemployment, erosion of entry level paid work and declining job quality; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation develop a campaign aimed at addressing youth unemployment and underemployment, including the following pillars: action on unpaid internships, a living wage of \$15.00 per hour and a feasible national youth jobs strategy; and

Be it further resolved that this campaign include short, medium and long term goals; and

Be it further resolved that this campaign be proposed at the National General Meeting in June 2016.

2015/11:031 MOTION TO AMMEND

Local 94/Local 61

Be it resolved that the first clause of the motion (2015/11:006) be amended to read:

“Be it resolved that the Federation develop a campaign aimed at addressing youth unemployment and underemployment, including the following pillars: action on unpaid internships, a minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour and a feasible national youth jobs strategy; and”

CARRIED

2015/11:032 MOTION TO AMMEND

Local 46/Local 99

Be it resolved that motion (2015/11:006) be amended to include:

“Be it resolved that the Federation develop a campaign aimed at addressing youth unemployment and underemployment, including the following pillars: action on unpaid internships work terms, work placements and other forms of unpaid work, a minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour and a feasible national youth jobs strategy; and”

CARRIED

2015/11:033 MOTION

Local 97/Local 101

Be it further resolved that the amendment (2015/11:032) be amended to read:

“Be it resolved that the Federation develop a campaign aimed at addressing youth unemployment and underemployment, including the following pillars: action on unpaid internships, work terms, work placements and other forms of unpaid work, a minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour and a feasible national young workers and recent graduates’ jobs strategy; and”

CARRIED

2015/11:008 CARRIED AS AMENDED

b. Proposal on campaign to challenge corporatization on campuses

2015/11:012 MOTION

Local 78/Local 105

Whereas the National Graduate Caucus (NGC) has a campaign focused on the corporatization of universities, which has not been updated for several years; and

Whereas the corporatization campaign of the NGC focuses primarily on the commercialization of research and space on campus, but does not address the ways in which universities are increasingly governed as for-profit corporations and the limiting of democratic participation by students, faculty, and campus staff; and

Whereas the corporatization campaign of the NGC highlights important issues but is impersonal and without practical goals, making it difficult for locals to use the campaign as a basis for organizing; therefore

PAGE 4 — CLOSING PLENARY MINUTES

34th Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services)

Sunday, November 22 to Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Be it resolved that the corporatization campaign of the National Graduate Caucus (NGC) be expanded to include a focus on academic governance and the rights of students to participate in the affairs of the university; and

Be it further resolved that the corporatization campaign of the NGC be expanded to incorporate practical goals for on-campus organizing; and

Be it further resolved that new materials be developed that connect the corporate agenda to students' everyday experiences on campus.

CARRIED

c. Proposal on accommodation campaign

2015/11:014 MOTION

Local 35/Local 105

Whereas education is a right; and

Whereas students with disabilities face a variety of barriers to accessing post-secondary education; and

Whereas the duty to accommodate is widely recognized in legal jurisprudence and federal and provincial human rights codes; and

Whereas post-secondary institutes have a duty to accommodate the learning needs of students; and

Whereas post-secondary policies and practices do not always live up to an acceptable standard when it comes to upholding the duty to accommodate; and

Whereas in September 2015 a student at Memorial University was denied accommodation by an employee drawing nationwide attention to an institutional failure to live up to the commitment to fully and reasonably accommodate students, therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation undertake an education and action campaign around the need for adequate policies and practices concerning accommodation for students at the post-secondary level.

2015/11:034 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 41/Local 105

Be it resolved that the motion (2015/11:014) be amended to read:

"Be it resolved that the Federation undertake an education and action campaign around the need for fair, transparent and equitable policies and practices concerning accommodation for students at the post-secondary level; and

Be it further resolved that this campaign be led by students with disabilities, and organized and implemented in consultation with students that identify as students with disabilities across campuses; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation addresses the lack of accommodation policies and accommodation practices at the post-secondary level for all those identifying with a disability, whether it is visible or invisible, by writing a letter to the Canadian Minister of Sport and Persons with a Disability."

CARRIED

2015/11:014 CARRIED AS AMENDED

d. Proposal on on-campus voting

2015/11:016 MOTION

Local 35/Local 105

Whereas the Federation successfully lobbied Elections Canada to facilitate on campus voting across the country in advance of the federal election; and

Whereas in the first three days of voting more than 42,000 students voted including over 2,000 students at Memorial; and

Whereas the opportunity for students to vote on campus for their home riding will greatly improve the accessibility of voting for students; and

Whereas voting on campus was a pilot project that will likely be evaluated following the federal election; therefore

Be it resolved that Elections Canada be lobbied to make on campus voting a permanent part of its advance voting program, and

Be it further resolved that Elections Canada be lobbied to expand on campus voting to all post-secondary institutions in the country.

2015/11:035 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 109/Local 32

Be it further resolved that the motion (2015/11:016) be amended to read:

“Be it resolved that the Federation lobby Elections Canada to make on campus voting a permanent part of its advance voting program, and

Be it further resolved that the Federation lobby Elections Canada to expand on campus voting to all post-secondary institutions in the country.”

CARRIED

2015/11:016 CARRIED AS AMENDED

e. Proposal on National Summit to Combat Racism

2015/11:018 MOTION

Local 7/Local 105

Whereas marginalized groups face continuous and unique forms of oppression, marginalization, violence, occupation and silencing within our campuses and our communities; and

Whereas education about privilege, intersectionality, and prejudice is not integrated within the majority our education structure or curricula; and

Whereas anti-oppression workshops while useful, are not the definitive solution to combat discrimination within our membership; and

Whereas racialized communities, including students, have been continuously mobilizing on campaign initiatives that combat systemic and institutionalized racism and colonialism, and state sanctioned violence, most recently through campaign initiatives such as Idle No More and Black Lives Matter; and

Whereas racialized communities and anti-racism campaigns have been systematically targeted on and off campus as a means of silencing this important work; and

Whereas racialized students need spaces to be able to talk about their experiences, share stories and support each other in their work both on and off campus to combat racism and colonialism; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation host a national student summit to combat racism and colonialism both on and off campus; and

Be it further resolved the summit coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21st 2016; and

Be it further resolved that the summit be hosted as a space open only to racialized students, so that they may gather, participate in story telling and share resources on combating racism and colonialism both on and off campus; and

Be it further resolved that an agenda and objectives for the summit be developed in consultation with the national racialized students representative, and the national racialized students constituency group.

2015/11:036 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 68/Local 08

Be it further resolved that the third clause of the motion (2015/11:018) be amended to read:

“Be it further resolved that the summit be hosted as a space open only to racialized students and Indigenous students, so that they may gather, participate in story telling and share resources on combating racism and colonialism both on and off campus; and”

CARRIED

2015/11:037 MOTION TO AMEND

PAGE 6 — CLOSING PLENARY MINUTES

34th Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services)
Sunday, November 22 to Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Local 68/Local 20

Be it further resolved that the fourth clause of the motion (2015/11:018) be amended to read:

“Be it further resolved that an agenda and objectives for the summit be developed in consultation with the National Racialized Students Representative, and the National Racialized Students’ Constituency Group and the National Aboriginal Caucus, and the National Aboriginal Students’ Representative.”

CARRIED

2015/11:038

MOTION

Local 68/Local 34

Be it further resolved that the motion (2015/11:018) be amended to include:

“Be it further resolved that member locals must open opportunities for racialised and Indigenous members to attend.”

2015/11:018

CARRIED AS AMENDED

f. Proposal on information portal

2015/11:024

MOTION

Local 38/Local 105

Whereas the Federation is composed of member local students’ unions; and

Whereas the member local students’ unions create complimentary and original Federation campaigns; and

Whereas the Federation is stronger when we are united and in solidarity;

Whereas open access to information is valued in the Federation; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation fast-track and launch an information portal that includes, blogs, video posting, messaging, graphic design and other relevant materials.

2015/11:039

MOTION TO AMEND

Local 105/Local 32

Be it further resolved that the motion (2015/11:024) be amended to read:

“Be it resolved that the Federation fast-track and launch a members-only information portal that has downloadable bilingual resources including: blogs, videos, graphic design, the Federation logo, and other relevant materials; and

Be it further resolved that the portal include a section in which member locals can upload their own materials to share and inter-local communication can occur; and

Be it further resolved that a user guide be developed and distributed to member locals on how to use the new portal.”

CARRIED

2015/11:024

CARRIED AS AMENDED

g. Proposal on French education working group

2015/11:026

MOTION

Local 69/Local 105

Whereas the quality of French post-secondary education varies from one institution to the other; and

Whereas some students who enrolled in a programme in French end up having to complete the programme in English; and

Whereas the members of the Francophone Students’ Constituency Group and the Bilingualism Forum have had several discussions about the importance of accessible post-secondary education for francophone students; therefore

Be it resolved that a working group be created to examine the state of post-secondary education in French in Canada.

2015/11:040

MOTION TO AMEND

Local 38/Local 69

Be it further resolved that the motion (2015/11:026) be amended to read:

Be it resolved that a working group be created to examine the state of post-secondary education in French in minority situations in Canada and that the working group develop comprehensive recommendations to the federal government and an accompanying report be developed for the June 2016 General Meeting.

Be it further resolved that a Francophone or bilingual coordinator be hired to assist and coordinate fieldwork.

CARRIED

2015/11:026 CARRIED AS AMENDED

6. PRESENTATION OF ORGANISATIONAL AND SERVICES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Nova Scotia Representative Michaela Sam highlighted sections of the Organisational and Services Development Report.

a. Proposal on the addition of items to the Ethical Purchasing Network

2015/11:008 MOTION

Local 8/Local 105

Whereas the Ethical Purchasing Network (EPN) exists to provide materials that are ethically produced; and

Whereas the EPN helps member local students' unions purchase goods at a local rate; and

Whereas a significant portion of the Federation's membership endures extremely cold winters; and

Whereas member local students' unions have noticed an increase in requests for winter apparel; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation's Ethical Purchasing Network include the following items: mittens, scarves, tuques and hoodies/sweatshirts; and

Be it further resolved that these new items be made available for fall orientation 2016; and

Be it further resolved that these new items can be customized.

2015/11:041 MOTION TO AMEND

Local 99/Local 109

Be it further resolved that the second clause of motion (2015/11:008) be amended to read:

"Be it further resolved that these new items be made available for November 2016; and"

CARRIED

2015/11:008 CARRIED AS AMENDED

b. Proposal on ISIC discount program

2015/11:010 MOTION

Local 8/Local 105

Whereas ISIC UK offers a considerable range of discounts; and

Whereas ISIC UK boasts incredibly usage; and

Whereas ISIC UK offers many high quality discounts; and

Whereas the quality and quantity of discounts offered by ISIC UK exceeds ISIC Canada; therefore

Be it resolved that the National Executive be tasked with investigating the techniques and strategies employed by the UK's National Union of Students (NUS); and

Be it further resolved that the Executive-at-Large establish a stronger relationship with the NUS to aid in the study of ISIC UK's success and to build international solidarity between students.

CARRIED

c. Proposal on OOHLALA Mobile Application

2015/11:020 MOTION

Local 37/Local 105

Whereas the OOHLALA Mobile application is not useful; and

Whereas the Federation is paying for a service that isn't benefitting members; therefore

PAGE 8 — CLOSING PLENARY MINUTES

34th Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services)
Sunday, November 22 to Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Be it resolved that the Federation end its relationship with OOHLALA Mobile as soon as possible.

DEFEATED

d. Proposal on decertification petitions

2015/11:022 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS

Local 98/Local 105

Whereas individual members have the right to start petitions to enter and leave the Federation; and

Whereas the threshold to start a vote to certify is ten percent (10%) of students and the threshold to start a vote to decertify is twenty percent (20%) of students; and

Whereas the decertification petition requires double the amount of signatures compared to the certification petition; and

Whereas the amount of signatures required to start a decertification petition is unreasonably high for larger Locals to obtain; and

Whereas the decertification process nevertheless entails a democratic referendum posed to a membership following the petition; and

Whereas members have the right to accessible, democratic bylaws; therefore

Be it resolved that the bylaws be amended such that a petition to start a vote on decertification can be called by fifteen percent (15%) of members; and

Be it further resolved that Bylaw 1.3 a. iii be amended to read as follows:

The students collectively belonging to a local student association will have sole authority to initiate a vote on decertification, as described in Bylaw I, Section 6, by submitting to the National Executive of the Federation a petition, signed by not less than fifteen percent (15%) of such students, calling for the vote.

Be it further resolved that Bylaw 1.6 be amended to reflect this change and that the first paragraph of Bylaw 1.6 be amended to read as follows:

As per Bylaw I, Section 3.a.iii a petition calling for a vote on decertification shall be signed by no less than fifteen percent (15%) of the students collectively belonging to the member local student association and delivered to the National Executive of the Federation.

Be it further resolved that any other reference to this threshold in any operating documents or publications of the Federation be amended to reflect this change

DEFEATED

7. PRESENTATION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

a. 2016-2017 Chairperson

2015/11:042 MOTION

Local 07/Local 32

Be it resolved that Bilan Arte (Local 103) be ratified as Chairperson for the 2016-17 term.

CARRIED

b. 2016-2017 Deputy Chairperson

2015/11:043 MOTION

Local 07/Local 32

Be it resolved that Anne-Marie Roy (Local 41) be ratified as Deputy Chairperson for the 2016-17 term.

CARRIED

c. 2016-2017 Treasurer

2015/11:044 MOTION

Local 07/Local 32

Be it resolved that Peyton Veitch (Local 8) be ratified as Treasurer for the 2016-17 term.

CARRIED

d. Referendum Appeals Committee

2015/11:045 MOTION

Local 07/Local 32

Be it resolved that Francis Pineda (Local 24) and Carissa Taylor (Local 102) be ratified as members of the referendum appeals committee.

CARRIED

e. 2015-2016 Women's Representative

2015/11:046 MOTION

Local 07/Local 32

Be it resolved that Vanessa Dorimain (Local 41) be ratified as the Women's Representative for the remainder of the 2015-16 term.

CARRIED

f. 2015-2016 College and Institute Students' Representative

2015/11:047 MOTION

Local 07/Local 32

Be it resolved that TI'ehskwiisimka Marshall (Local 72) be ratified as the College and Institute Students' Representative for the remainder of the 2015-16 term.

CARRIED

8. CONSIDERATION OF EMERGENCY MOTIONS

a. Proposal to Challenge Algoma University's Smudging Policy

2015/11:048 MOTION

Local 08/Local 99

Whereas the administration of Algoma Univesrity is trying to implement a smudging policy; and

Whereas this policy was created without any consultation with Indigenous students at Algoma University; and

Whereas this policy contains harmful and colonial clauses such as a five to ten days notice requirement for smudging that results in an increase in policing Indigenous students; therefore

Be it resolved that a letter be written to the administration of Algoma University condemning the smudging policy and calling for a new policy to be drafted in consultation with Indigenous students; and

Be it further resolved that the letter be wirtten in collaboration with the National Aboriginal Caucus; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be enouraged to send similar letters and hold solidarity actions for students at Algoma University.

CARRIED

b. Proposal to Support the Tuition Freeze for all Students in Newfoundland and Labrador

2015/11:049 MOTION

Local 20/Local 92

Whereas labour action has a negative effect on students, employees and faculty of any university campus it takes place on; and

Whereas the Nipissing University full-time faculty have been on strike since 12:01 am on November 2, 2015; and

Whereas students have been out of the classroom for a total of three weeks and three days; and

Whereas this labour action has affected over 5,000 students in North Bay, Brantford and Bracebridge; and

Whereas this strike has caused students an excess amount of stress, anxiety and depression due to the unknown consequences of the faculty strike; and

Whereas this strike could cause students to lose imperative breaks for mental well being, such as their winter reading week and majority of their Christmas break; and

PAGE 10 — CLOSING PLENARY MINUTES

34th Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services)

Sunday, November 22 to Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Whereas the university has stated that if the strike surpasses a length of six weeks, students at Nipissing University run the risk of their semester extending past April 30, 2015; and

Whereas an extension of the academic calendar past April 30 will cause students to incur more debt due to living expenses, excessive stress due to the unavailability of jobs and students' academic future and careers will be jeopardized; and

Whereas the Nipissing University Student Union and its members have been constantly urging both sides to return to the table and make deal by way of petitions, documents, public statements, etc.; and

Whereas no bargaining meetings have been scheduled, but after four weeks of labour action an "exploratory meeting" has been scheduled; and

Whereas education is a right; therefore

Be it resolved that member local students' unions be encouraged to sign a petition written by a Nipissing University student that outlines the concerns students are dealing with, encouraging both sides to return to the table and make a deal; and

Be it further resolved that member local students' unions be encouraged to send a letter of support to the Nipissing University community (such as the letter submitted by the Federation) citing the hardship caused by the cancellation of classes on students, and calling on Nipissing University's administration and faculty to return to the bargaining table in good faith, having made meaningful concessions, so that they can reach a deal and return students to the classroom.

2015/11:050

MOTION TO AMEND

Be it resolved that the second clause of the motion (2015/11:049) be amended to read:

Be it further resolved that member local students' unions be encouraged to send a letter of support to the Nipissing University community including the Faculty Association (such as the letter submitted by the Federation) citing the hardship caused by cancellation of classes on students, and calling on Nipissing University's administration to return to the bargaining table in good faith, having made meaningful concessions, so that they can reach a deal and return students to the classroom.

CARRIED

2015/11:049

CARRIED AS AMENDED

c. Proposal to Support the Tuition Freeze for all Students in Newfoundland and Labrador

2015/11:051

MOTION

Local 101/Local 71

Whereas the 34th National General Meeting was a huge success in supporting the lobbying efforts of various regional components and constituency groups; and

Whereas the Federation has supported provincial components in lobbying efforts during provincial elections, such as the emergency motion put forward by Local 36 regarding Newfoundland and Labrador's provincial election campaign; and

Whereas the President of the University of Regina announced in October that the Saskatchewan provincial government withdrew \$850,000 from the University of Regina in order to cover provincial debt;

Whereas these funds related to the Saskatchewan Innovation Project which had already been committed to students; and

Whereas, with the exception of graduate retention programs, there is an absence of debt relief programs in Saskatchewan; and

Whereas if Saskatchewan wishes to welcome students from the rest of Canada and the international community, the provincial government may want to invest in post-secondary education; and

Whereas Saskatchewan will be having a provincial election in April 2016; and

Whereas the Saskatchewan component elected its 2016/2017 executive during the 34th Annual General Meeting;

Whereas the Federation acts in solidarity to address the concerning rise of tuition fees for provincial and regional groups;

Whereas Saskatchewan has the second highest levels of domestic tuition fees in Canada;

Be it resolved that the Federation work with members in Saskatchewan to develop and provide material to lobby the candidates for the 2016 Saskatchewan Provincial Election on the issues of access to education and improvements to the Saskatchewan student loans program;

Be it further resolved that the campaign lobby political parties to increase funding for post-secondary education in the province; and

Be it further resolved that the campaign be added to the agenda for the National Graduate Caucus meeting in February 2016 in Saskatchewan.

CARRIED

2015/11:052

MOTION

Local 109/Local 99

Whereas black students at Missouri University and Yale University have been dealing with issues of anti-black racism without any support from the University administration; and

Whereas black students at Missouri University and Yale University have staged hunger strikes, boycotts and demonstrations to raise awareness about the violence they experience as a result of anti-blackness at their institution; and

Whereas black students at Missouri University had some of their demands met as a result of a boycott staged by the football team resulting in a loss of revenue at the University; and

Whereas violent attacks of anti-black racism are not limited to college or university institutions in the United States; and

Whereas Guelph University students are currently experiencing overt racism in the form of threats, surveillance and a call for the impeachment of the executive body; and

Whereas we live in a racist, white-supremacist society; and

Whereas black culture is constantly appropriated and co-opted; and

Whereas there is a lack of representation of black people within administration and senior staff within colleges and universities; and

Whereas there is limited space for black folks to organize on campus; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals make an effort to stand in solidarity with black students in post-secondary institutions and with the black communities surrounding these institutions, and

Be it further resolved that the Federation stand in solidarity with black students organizing at Missouri University and Yale University by releasing a solidarity statement, providing a donation of \$500, and reaching out to offer in kind support for their organizing; and

Be it further resolved that member locals take action to stand in solidarity with black students at Missouri University and Yale University by writing solidarity letters and by providing donations to support their organizing efforts; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation develop and coordinate anti-oppression workshops for member locals to be facilitated by racialized people discussing anti-blackness, and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to condemn the racist actions through letters of solidarity and engage in actions that coincide with the students of Guelph; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation support and compensate any mental health support for the executive and student organizers who are experiencing any level of trauma at the University of Guelph; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation create Black on Campus materials in consultation with students affected by the issue to be distributed to member locals.

CARRIED

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dubinski made a number of logistical announcements.

10. ADJOURNMENT

2015/11:053

MOTION

Local 105/Local 68

PAGE 12 — CLOSING PLENARY MINUTES

34th Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students(-Services)
Sunday, November 22 to Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

21:02 the meeting adjourned.