



CFS NGM REPORT

RECCOMENDATONS FOR FUTURE ACTION

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- ▶ CFS NGM REPORT
- ▶ UMSU ACT AFFIRMATION RESPONSIBILITIES
- ▶ ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST AFFIRMATION
- ▶ COMPARISON WITH SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS
- ▶ PROCESS OF DECERTIFICATION
- ▶ EXECUTIVE RECCOMENDATION ON AFFIRMATION VOTE

CFS NGM REPORT: OVERVIEW

- ▶ NOVEMBER 16-19
- ▶ PROCESS AS DESCRIBED IN JUNE PRESENTATION
- ▶ CLOSING PLENARY NOVEMBER 19

CFS NGM REPORT: NOTABLE MOTIONS

- ▶ BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND ADITONAL MEETING
- ▶ BOYCOTTS, DIVESTMENTS, SANCTIONS

CFS NGM REPORT: GRAND ENTRY

- ▶ During Closing Plenary it was raised that our executive team did not attend the Grand Entry Ceremony at Opening Plenary. This was the result of not being able to get a cab on time during snowstorms across Gatineau.
- ▶ Nonetheless, I extend an apology to our Local 103 Indigenous members, and to the CFS Circle of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students for not attending.

CFS NGM REPORT: TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ Our opinion on the CFS NGM remains primarily unchanged from our presentation after the June NGM
- ▶ The CFS continued its trend of presenting a wide array of motions that have, in our opinion, indirect value to students and can be unnecessarily divisive
- ▶ We do not find the Democratic and Financial practices of the CFS to be satisfactory
- ▶ UMSU delegates, especially executives, are still not treated as welcome members in the space when we do engage with the federation, and we are targeted when we do not participate to the satisfaction of some members at workshops
- ▶ The CFS does not provide requisite value for money, especially when compared to other National Student Federations

UMSU ACT AFFIRMATION RESPONSIBILITIES

- ▶ As we had sent to you in the e-mail distributed last week, it is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to affirm membership in external organizations at least once every two years and within six months of the UMSU Act being signed into law
- ▶ The deadline for the first affirmation vote is December 4th
- ▶ A vote must be held prior to that date on affirmation of membership in the CFS and UCRU
- ▶ If the board does not affirm membership, it must take all necessary actions to terminate membership
- ▶ We are proposing a special meeting of the board to decide on each of these matters November 29th

ARGUMENTS FOR AFFIRMING MEMBERSHIP

- ▶ The CFS provides a number of services. Even though there are many we do not use, there are some that are of use to students, such as the ISIC Card and U-File service
- ▶ The CFS has structural relationships with political parties in government, especially within in Manitoba
- ▶ The CFS provides UMSU with representation in the largest Federal and Provincial coalition of student associations
- ▶ The CFS provides strong representation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students - including adoption of the ReconcilliACTION campaign that began at UMSU and is still spearheaded by UMSU member Indigenous voices.
- ▶ The Students voted to remain in last year's plebiscite on membership

ARGUMENTS AGAINST AFFIRMING MEMBERSHIP

- ▶ UMSU's size and scope allow it to offer services of the same or higher quality for the same or lower cost than CFS in a number of fields (health plan, purchasing network etc.)
- ▶ UMSU's executives, membership and priorities are not adequately represented in the CFS' lobbying efforts.
- ▶ The CFS' processes do not meet the democratic standards of UMSU, as set out in our act
- ▶ The CFS' financial situation is poor and not transparent, and the membership has shown little will to reverse course on this issue
- ▶ The CFS is an unsafe space for dissenting voices
- ▶ The CFS' goals have strayed far beyond what should be expected from a student federation

Alternatives for Government Advocacy and Student Association Coordination

- ▶ **CASA:** Most similar in size and structure to CFS, but focused on lobbying and direct student deliverables, at a lower cost
- ▶ **UCRU:** Grassroots lobbying

COMPARISON WITH SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS

ORG.	COST	SIZE	STRUCTURE	SCOPE	MANDATE
CFS	\$341K	54 MEMBERS (3 U15)	Large staff, provincial components, 2 meetings per year, long process to enter or leave	Advocacy and Services	Mobilization, lobbying, issues that pertain directly and indirectly to students, free tuition mandate
CASA	\$50K	22 MEMBERS (2 U15)	Small Staff, 4 meetings per year, board vote to enter or leave	Advocacy	Lobbying, direct deliverables, incremental changes
UCRU	NONE	9 MEMBERS (9 U15)	Grassroots, student led, board vote to enter or leave	Advocacy	Lobbying, direct deliverables, incremental changes, U15 focus

PROCESS FOR DECERTIFICATION

- ▶ BOARD VOTE
- ▶ SIGNATURE GATHERING
- ▶ SIGNATURE REVIEW
- ▶ REFERENDUM

EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ It is our recommendation to pursue decertification from the Canadian Federation of Students, and to fail the affirmation vote
- ▶ It is our recommendation to affirm our membership in UCRU
- ▶ While it is integral we continue to pursue Federal and Provincial Advocacy, we feel confident there are better avenues to pursue this than the CFS
- ▶ UMSU could receive more relevant and effective advocacy by joining CASA and continuing to work with UCRU
- ▶ UMSU would have more of a leadership role in these organizations and could obtain more deliverables for our students
- ▶ CASA and UCRU also provide greater flexibility as a board vote could allow us to leave or re-enter at any time

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Are there any bodies (CFS, CASA, UCRU etc.) that you'd like to hear from or to receive statements from to help you make your decision?
- ▶ Do you have any questions for myself or our executive team?
- ▶ Thanks for listening and for you consideration!