

CENTRAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
APPENDIX E – ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY

*formerly part of Appendix E:
Issues and Organizational Policy*

Contents

1. Relationship with the University of Guelph
2. CSA Interaction with other Organizations

**At the CSA Board meeting on March 27, 2019,
Appendix E: Issues and Organizational Policy
was amended and split into two policies:**

***Appendix E: Organizational Policy*
and
*Appendix I: Issues Policy.***

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~~1. Policy on the University of Guelph~~

1. Relationship with the University of Guelph

~~1.1. Decision-Making Bodies~~

1.1. Preamble

The students of the University of Guelph comprise the largest group of stakeholders within the campus community. As such, to ensure the University is accountable to students and representative of student needs, the University must ensure student representation on committees and governing bodies. Representation on such bodies should comprise of a representative sample of the University of Guelph community, as determined by enrolment and other means.

1.2. Policy

The CSA supports:

- the right of students' unions to democratically decide who will represent students on such bodies.

The CSA opposes:

- the recognition of any individual student or student group that is not elected by students or appointed by an officially recognized students' union or association as a student representative for the purposes of representing the needs or interests of students on any advisory or decision-making body.

1.2.1. Policy with Board of Governors

As the highest decision-making body of the University of Guelph, it is the Board of Governor's duty to ensure student representation on this body with full participation rights. Student representation should be proportional to the extent that students make up membership of the University of Guelph community.

The Board of Governors must be accountable to the university community, the citizens of Guelph, the Province of Ontario, and all stakeholders within the University. All representatives to the Board of Governors should be democratically selected, and all representatives should be held accountable to their membership for the decisions they make. The Board of Governors should be substantially made up of internal members of the University of Guelph community, who have a vested interest in its decisions and direct knowledge of University and post-secondary issues.

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The Board of Governors, as the governing body of a publicly funded institution, makes decisions that affect the University of Guelph community. All deliberations and decisions of the Board of Governors, including financial decisions, must be public knowledge. Students, as major stakeholders in the University of Guelph, have the right to be informed of the agenda and priorities of, and any decisions made by the Board of Governors.

The CSA, as the recognized representatives of undergraduate students, must make every effort to inform its membership of Board of Governors decisions that affect its membership. The CSA must ~~link~~ communicate with the elected Board of Governors student representatives in order to both provide input and receive information on Board of Governors activities.

1.2.2. Policy with Senate

The CSA believes that as students are major stakeholders in the University of Guelph, and that as the University of Guelph Senate makes decisions affecting the lives of students, students should continue to have full participation rights on the Senate, proportionate to the extent that students make up the University of Guelph community.

The CSA, as the recognized representatives of undergraduate students, must make every effort to inform its membership of Senate decisions that affect its membership. The CSA must link with the elected Senate student representatives in order to both provide input and receive information on Senate activities.

1.2.3. Policy with Other University Committees

The CSA shall ensure, to the best of its ability, that student representation is actively present at all university committee levels that make decisions or recommendations that impact on the lives of students. The CSA shall maintain active communication with such student representatives.

1.3. Fees

~~1.3.1. Tuition Fees~~

1.3.1. Policy of CSA Autonomy and Fees

~~The CSA believes that tuition fees are a regressive form of taxation for education that combined with other factors limits students' right to education. The CSA believes that tuition fees treat education as a commodity to buy and sell and ignores education as a human right that combined with other factors limits students' right to education.~~ The University of Guelph Board of Governors must not approve any tuition fee increases, whether within Ontario government guidelines or otherwise. The Board of Governors should instead freeze tuition

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fees **or reduce tuition fees** as a provisional measure, while actively working towards the elimination of tuition fees, as outlined in Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Right, to which Canada is a signatory.

1.3.2. Ancillary Fees

The CSA believes that ancillary fees levied by the University of Guelph to pay for certain programs and services **are a regressive form of university funding is ignorant to the already high cost of education when these services should be funded by the university.** The CSA believes that it is the university's responsibility to fund programs and services that are controlled by the university administration.

~~The CSA endorses the University of Guelph's agreement concerning the regulation and management of compulsory ancillary fee revenues, as an interim measure to the elimination of student compulsory ancillary fees, as contained in the "Compulsory Non-Tuition Fee Agreement". (January 1994)~~

The CSA believes that efforts of the University of Guelph to generate additional revenues by the institution of certain fees-for-service, deposits and overpricing of university documents, manuals and services is a regressive form of university funding that is damaging to students, and all efforts must be made to counteract this type of funding.

~~1.3.3. — International Student Fees~~

~~The CSA believes that differential fees for international students is a discriminatory policy. The CSA believes that the University of Guelph Board of Governors must eliminate differential fees for international students.~~

~~The CSA supports the University of Guelph's Cohort Fee system for international students. The CSA demands the following from the University of Guelph Board of Governors:~~

~~1.3.3.1. — The elimination of differential fees for international students.~~

~~1.3.3.2. — The end to University of Guelph profiteering from differential fees from international students.~~

~~The CSA calls for support of the right of international students to work in Canada, and that they be eligible for all forms of educational, health and legal assistance provided in Canada at no additional cost to the student.~~

~~1.4. — Academics and Course Structure~~

~~The CSA believes that academic courses offered at the University of Guelph should be of high quality, and should offer students an opportunity to fulfill the~~

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mission and Learning Objectives of the University of Guelph. Academic courses should be designed to promote learning, creativity, and original thought.

The CSA believes that as students are the users of the academic course structure at the University of Guelph, they should have significant input in the decisions on the structure and content of courses offered, through such bodies as Senate, college committees and departmental committees.

The CSA calls on the University of Guelph to offer courses that reflect the diversity of the student body, and offer students the opportunity to explore, among others, social, cultural, political and historical areas that have been traditionally marginalized by the broader socio-economic context of Canada.

1.5. — Human Rights Issues at the University of Guelph

The CSA believes that it is the duty of the University of Guelph to provide full-time, professional, quality counseling and resources around issues of human rights on campus.

The CSA endorses the Human Rights at the University of Guelph document and calls on all members of the University of Guelph community to be aware of the problem of human rights issues on campus, to take responsibility for not promulgating human rights abuses, and to provide understanding and support to victims, and to proactively work towards a culture on campus where human rights are respected.

The CSA recognizes the importance of the work of the Diversity and Human Rights Office at the University of Guelph as an autonomous organization that seeks to eliminate human rights violations.

1.6. — Admissions Policy

The CSA recognizes that a variety of social, economic and cultural factors may affect the academic performance in secondary school of those applying to the University of Guelph; The CSA recognizes that in order to promote a diverse, involved student body that is reflective of society, criteria for admissions must take into account the diversity of the applicants and their backgrounds; therefore, the CSA calls on the University of Guelph to implement an admissions policy that does not depend on secondary school academics as the sole and primary criterion for admission; that takes into account social, economic and cultural variances among those applying for admission; and that encourages those who have done significant extra-curricular work to apply and be accepted into the University of Guelph.

1.7. — The Administration of the University of Guelph

The CSA recognizes that in order to facilitate the furtherance of student issues, it must

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~~interact with the administration of the University of Guelph. The CSA also recognizes that the administration and the students may have similar interests in some areas.~~

The CSA supports:

- ~~• The treatment of students as equal partners in the University;~~
- ~~• The recognition of students' diverse experiences and skills, and the acknowledgement that students are mature, responsible and capable of making informed, well thought out decisions;~~
- ~~• That in order for the administration to gain the respect of students, it must respect the voice of students who raise issues of concern to them;~~
- ~~• In areas in which students and administration fundamentally disagree, the students' right to voice their opinion, and to have it respected and heard.~~

The CSA opposes:

- ~~• The interference of the administration in the CSA or any other student organization's financial or operational affairs or democratic processes, including meetings, elections, and referenda.~~
- ~~• Any University process or policy that interferes with or restricts any student's or student-run organization's ability to organize~~

The CSA upholds the idea and urges the practice that we, as an autonomous organization, has control over the fees it collects for its members and for organizations that we are a part of. The CSA does not support and condemns the Student Choice Initiative as it is a direct effort to destroy student unions and organization. In the process of the University collecting fees on our behalf, we remain control over the said fees, the date of collection and the date of discontinuation, as determined by student referendum.

~~1.8. Graduate Student Issues~~

1.4. Policy with the Graduate Student Association (Local 62 of the Canadian Federation of Students)

The CSA recognizes that graduate students at the University of Guelph are an integral part of the university community, and that they have concerns particular to their position within this community. The CSA recognizes the Graduate Student Association (GSA) as the legitimate, democratically controlled representatives of the graduate students at the University of Guelph and recognizes that the GSA is entitled to equitable levels of representation at all levels of university decision-making bodies.

The CSA recognizes that graduate student teaching assistants employed by the University of Guelph are represented by their collective bargaining unit, CUPE 3913,

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and supports their union on limiting the exploitation and increasing job security for graduate students. The CSA recognizes that undergraduate students at the University of Guelph depend on graduate student teaching assistance for a portion of their education and have a vested interest in ensuring that graduate students are well treated.

1.5. Policy with Faculty

The CSA recognizes the University of Guelph Faculty Association as the legitimate, democratically elected representatives of the University of Guelph faculty, and will work with the Faculty Association on areas of common concern to students and faculty.

The CSA believes that it is the right of University of Guelph students to have public access to teaching and course evaluations and will work towards a mechanism of making such information available to students.

The CSA believes that the University of Guelph must make every effort, including employment equity hiring, to ensure that faculty represent the diversity of Canadian society.

The CSA believes that a quality education flourishes only in an intellectually free climate. We oppose, therefore, any and all attempts to impose political or other selection criteria, in short, any non-academic criteria, upon the academic and research work of post-secondary education. Academic freedom and a quality education are indivisible. We recognize that academic and research work must be undertaken with a spirit of responsibility to society, as befits its intellectual leaders.

The CSA believes that as educators, faculty must receive teaching training in order to best convey information and knowledge, and in order to facilitate the University of Guelph learning objectives.

1.6. Policy with Stakeholder Organizations

- 1.6.1. The CSA will make every effort to work with other stakeholders at the University of Guelph in order to raise awareness of, and affect change in areas of common concern.

Such organizations include, but are not limited to:

- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
Locals 1281, 1334, and 3913
- College and Academic Research Group (CARG)
- ~~Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union (CEP) Local 2003~~
- Graduate Students Association [Amended March 13, 2019]
- Guelph-Humber Student Association

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- Ontario Nurses Association Local 15
- Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) District 35
- Professional Staff Association
- United Steelworkers (USW) Local 4120
- University of Guelph Faculty Association
- University of Guelph Food Service Employees Association
- University of Guelph Police Association
(represented provincially by OPSEU)

- 1.6.2. This will include the establishment of stakeholders meetings, if necessary organized by the Vice President External, at the beginning of each school year. The stakeholders meetings shall be comprised of the CSA as well as other groups on campus sharing a similar mandate or that face common issues and/or challenges.

~~1.7. Policy on Campus Labour Issues~~

~~The CSA recognizes the important role that it plays in supporting workers on campus. In addition, we recognize that the CSA and on-campus labour share a number of common interests and struggles such as issues pertaining to quality of education, increasing public funding to post-secondary education, accessibility, health and safety, and working/living/learning conditions on-campus.~~

~~Given the close link between labour and student issues on-campus the CSA believes that every effort should be taken to support workers concerns as they pertain to this university. In particular, the CSA recognizes the need for support during labour disruptions. In the event that a bargaining unit decides to strike the CSA shall take the followings steps:~~

- ~~• The CSA shall make public their support for workers during labour disruptions. This may include letters to the Ontario, motions of support from the Board, and petitions/tabling in the University Centre.~~
- ~~• The CSA Board shall appoint a strike support committee comprised of at least one executive and at least one Board member. It shall be the job of this committee to liaise with on-campus labour in order to develop strategies for support and solidarity.~~
- ~~• The CSA shall undertake necessary actions to ensure that undergraduate students are supported and aware of any changes to campus life during a labour disruption.~~
- ~~• To respect and support picket lines where it is possible.~~

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2. CSA Interaction with other Organizations

2.1. Relationship with the Canadian Federation of Students

2.1.1. Preamble / History

The students at the University of Guelph hosted the initial meeting of the Ontario Federation of Students, the precursor to the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario in 1972. The students at the University of Guelph held a certification referendum with the Federation in 1979 in which the undergraduate students became part of the Federation. The University of Guelph Central Student Association is Local 54 of both the National and Provincial components of the Federation.

The Executive Committee is responsible for appointing a representative of local 54 to the CFS Ontario Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is responsible for communicating information about the Federation to the CSA membership and communicating and facilitating delegates to Ontario General Meetings, National General Meetings, and any other meetings or gatherings of the Federation.

2.1.2. Policy with the Canadian Federation of Students – National

The CSA recognizes that in order to overcome legislated or social barriers to the provision of a quality post-secondary education, it must ~~link~~ communicate with national student representation. The CSA recognizes that one of the barriers to quality post-secondary education is the lack of provision of federal transfer monies to education. The CSA recognizes the Canadian Federation of Students as our students' national representation.

~~The CSA shall do everything within its power to link with,~~ As members of the Federation, the CSA shall connect with, facilitate initiatives from, and commit representation to, this organization. We acknowledge our responsibilities as active members of this organization in providing a link between it and the undergraduate students at the University of Guelph.

The CSA recognizes that the Canadian Federation of Students links with other national representatives of groups concerned with post-secondary education, such as faculty associations, staff associations, labour unions, college associations, as well as coalition groups dealing with post-secondary issues. The CSA recognizes its responsibility on a local level to work with such organizations in order to raise awareness of student issues among them, and to build coalitions on common areas of concern.

Any significant decision regarding membership of CFS shall be decided by student referendum, including but not limited to fee increases beyond the cost of living, becoming members, and withdrawing membership.

2.1.3. Policy with the Canadian Federation of Students – Ontario

Similar to national student representation, the CSA recognizes that in order to overcome provincial barriers to the provision of a quality post-secondary education, it must link **communicate** with provincial student representation. The CSA recognizes the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario as our students' provincial representation. ~~The CSA shall do everything within its power to link with, to~~ **As members of the Federation, the CSA shall connect with**, facilitate initiatives from, and commit representation to, this organization. We acknowledge our responsibilities as active members of this organization in providing a link between it and the undergraduate students at the University of Guelph.

The CSA recognizes that the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario links with other provincial representatives of groups concerned with post-secondary education, such as faculty associations, staff associations, unions, college associations and so on, as well as coalition groups dealing with post-secondary issues. The CSA recognizes its responsibility on a local level to work with such organizations in order to raise awareness of student issues among them, and to build coalitions on common areas of concern.

Any significant decision regarding membership of CFS-O shall be decided by student referendum, **following CFS bylaws**, including but not limited to fee increases beyond the cost of living, becoming members, and withdrawing membership.

2.2. Policy with the University Centre Administration

The University Centre was an initiative of the student population at the University of Guelph, predating the CSA. The funds collected by the student population were directly used to build the University Centre.

Policy with the University Centre Board

2.3. Relationship with the City of Guelph

2.3.1. Preamble

The CSA recognizes that students form an integral part of the City of Guelph and are therefore entitled to all the benefits and responsibilities inherent in **citizenship residency** of this city. The CSA works ~~undertakes~~ **works** to ensure that students' interests are represented and defended when decisions or recommendations of the Guelph City Council or City Council committees that impact on the lives of students, are made.

~~The CSA demands that the City of Guelph implement a fair public transportation system that takes into account the needs of University of Guelph students. These needs include 7-day service, late night service, adequate geographical coverage of the city, an affordable bus pass, and reasonable fares.~~

Adequate affordable housing in the City of Guelph is a right of University of Guelph students. The CSA strongly condemns any city bylaw enactments that discriminate against students, including, but not limited to, tenancy restrictions. The CSA strongly urges the City of Guelph to combat any discrimination students incur when seeking affordable housing.

2.3.2. Relationship with Guelph Transit

The CSA has established a valuable working relationship with Guelph Transit (as part of the City of Guelph) and will continue to utilize this relationship to work effectively with Guelph Transit. The CSA will work with the City of Guelph to implement a fair public transportation system that takes into account the needs of University of Guelph students. These needs include 7-day service, late night service, adequate geographical coverage of the city, an affordable bus pass, and reasonable fares. The CSA works with the managerial and office staff of Guelph Transit, as well with the vehicle operators unionized as ATU 1189.

The CSA supports:

- agreements of a Universal Bus Pass contract with Guelph Transit that benefit students with a low-cost or free city bus pass
- Late Night Bus Service, provided at a low-cost or free to students

The CSA opposes:

- privatization of Guelph Transit