

Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

To: Science Society (SciSoc), Board of Directors  
From: Co-operative Education & Career Action  
Re: CECA Formal Response to Censure Resolution

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Dear SciSoc Board of Directors,

Co-operative Education acknowledges and appreciates the feedback shared from the Science Student Society (SciSoc) via the board of director's recent resolution.

The main concerns identified throughout the specific resolution statements may be summarized as:

1. A desire for improved communication from Co-operative Education in order to increase levels of student engagement,
2. A review of available feedback mechanisms for students to share their perspectives and experiences with CECA, and
3. Increased levels of transparency and financial disclosure about the co-op fee.

CECA is excited to engage with all co-op students, and in particular members of the Science Society, to work together to address concerns in these areas. There are already a number of existing ongoing projects and new initiatives that we believe will help collaborate in the right direction. These include:

- **Strengthening our relationship with the faculty student societies as well as the Federation of Students** in order to increase student engagement and student representation. Even though the relationship between FEDs and CECA has always been (and will continue to be) a priority for CECA, we are now looking forward to developing a stronger understanding and line of communication with the six faculty student societies directly (e.g. SciSoc) over the next year. This would be a relatively new approach and we believe a first step to address some of the communication concerns identified.
- **Implementation of new Co-op 2.0 Initiatives** in order to innovate and evolve the co-op student experience. Students have already been heavily involved in the consultations to design Flexible Work Terms and the Co-op Research Certificates – so thank you to those who have shared input/feedback which has helped drive these projects, and thank you to the student senators who spoke highly of this motion at Senate! CECA will continue to involve and consult students for input on the operationalization of Flexible Work Terms and Co-op Research Certificates.
- **A CECA deep dive into the Student co-op fee**, to be carried out in partnership between CECA (Peggy Jarvie, Associate Provost of Co-operative and Experiential Education) and FEDs (Andrew Clubine, VP Education, representing students). An identified need for transparency on the student co-op fee had already picked up momentum in the last few months, and the deep-dive working group has been waiting until end of April for its inaugural

kick-off meeting. More updates to come as the working group works through this massive initiative.

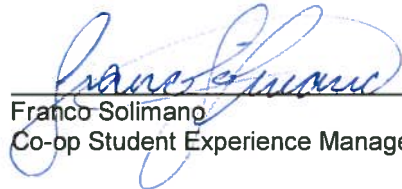
- **Strategically enhancing feedback mechanisms** available to students as part of the co-op experience. CECA recognizes that our overall feedback mechanisms must be improved in order to broaden and deepen dialogue with students on many important issues. The SciSoc censure letter has strengthened CECA's resolve to explore this area of focus further and make improvements in available communication channels. Over the next year, we will critically review the student feedback mechanisms currently available throughout CECA, and make recommendations that increase opportunities for students to share feedback (in existing and new ways) across the entire co-op student experience.

We believe these previously existing projects and/or new initiatives combined will help address concerns recently brought forward. Parallel to these ongoing, existing, and new projects, CECA also invites student societies to engage in the current available mechanisms for student involvement e.g. Co-operative Education Council and Co-op Student Council.

CECA is genuinely enthusiastic about the collaboration on the horizon that will improve student outreach and student engagement. We are excited to carry forward this momentum and work with both FEDs and the individual student societies to create richer and deeper dialogues.

Sincerely,

  
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Rocco Fondacaro  
Director, Student & Faculty Relations

  
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Franco Solimano  
Co-op Student Experience Manager

