A Resolution on Reforms to and Censure of The Department of Co-operative Education & Career Action:

The Science Society Board of Directors,

Highlighting Co-operative Education as a cornerstone of the learning experience for more than half of the students at the University of Waterloo[1],

Noting the Co-operative Education and Career Action (CECA) performs an essential role in supporting the Co-op experience at The University of Waterloo and will be responsible for implementing the new Edge certificate system for regular students,

Emphasizing that the high frequency and ever growing volume of science student complaints regarding CECA and the WaterlooWorks employment matching system (formerly Jobmine) suggests a variety of systemic problems limiting the quality of the department's services exist,

Understanding that CECA has a history of prioritizing employer relationships ahead of student outcomes, to foster excellent employer-University relationships which provide greater student employment opportunity,

Expressing disappointment that the WaterlooWorks system, which is administered by CECA, was released notwithstanding critical flaws in the design of its user experience and interface,

Noting that CECA is funded by the co-op fee, which is charged to all co-op students regardless of whether or not they rely on CECA's services to secure employment,

Frustrated by the opaque nature of co-op fee expenditure and calling to question the cost to benefit ratio for science students,

Deeply concerned that the co-op fee was recently increased by another 4.9% to a total surpassing $700.00 CAD, in spite of tremendous student opposition to the increase,

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[1] In the 2015/16 year there were 33 200 students enrolled at Waterloo and 18 730 students enrolled in the co-op program. This is according to;
CUDO 2015. (2016, March 18). Retrieved April 02, 2017, from
https://uwaterloo.ca/institutional-analysis-planning/university-data-and-statistics/common-university-data-ontario-cudo-0/common-university-data-ontario-cudo-2015

University of Waterloo Science Society
Board of Directors
31 March, 2017

Submitted by the <u>Councillors O'Sullivan & Velling</u>
Signatories: 10 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstention
Passed by a Vote:

Determined to express the views of students in the Faculty of Science represented by the Science Society, highlight concerns regarding the growing inefficiencies and lack of transparency at CECA, and to encourage the Federation of Students to take a more adamant stance in the defence of ardent student concerns, the UW Science Society Board of Directors hereby:

1. <u>Acknowledges</u> the Federation of Students (FEDS) Vice President Education's role on the CECA board at the University of Waterloo;
2. <u>Expresses concern</u> for the lack of routine review and minimal student involvement (ie. only FEDS VP Education as student representation) in the management and oversight of the CECA;
3. <u>Recommends</u> that FEDS and the University reform the CECA board to include representation from each of the constituent Societies in the Federation;
4. <u>Reaffirms</u> the campaign promises of VP-elect, Education (Andrew Clubine), to conduct a "deep dive" into the co-op fee and deliver a report on the progress of this investigation to a General Meeting of FEDS and the FEDS Students' Council.
5. <u>Requests</u> that the Federation of Students to appoint a joint University-FEDS panel led by the VP Education with representation of the FEDS constituent Societies (which themselves represent and serve their student stakeholders) to investigate the co-op fee increase and recommend changes to CECA for increased transparency in expenditure;
6. <u>Requests</u>, that the Federation of Students, to the fullest extent possible, makes any investigative results available to the constituent Societies and the public;
7. <u>Directs</u> the Science Society Executive (principally VP Academic, Internal, and President) to bring to the attention of the Associate Dean for Co-op and the FEDS VP Education for investigation of the:
   a. Use of Student fees in CECA through publicly available reporting on the expenditure, employment, and revenues of CECA annually, in compliance with *Ontario Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act*,
   b. Return on investment (ROI) for students participating in CECA who arrange jobs through the WaterlooWorks (formerly Jobmine) system,
   c. ~~Feasibility of co-op fee reimbursement for the portion of the levied fee which is used to fund WaterlooWorks for Students who do not rely on CECA's services to secure employment (*viz.* arrange a job outside of WaterlooWorks),~~
   d. Complaints of students in a forthright and transparent manner, while encouraging CECA to respond to criticism, complaints, and questions levied against them;
8. <u>Requests</u> that when the distributions of funds are known, that the CECA board visit the possibility of partial Co-op reimbursement for select services CECA provides;
9. <u>Directs</u> the Science Society Executive to lobby the FEDS VP Education and Associate Dean for Co-op for the creation of a verified anonymous reporting system for concerns over CECA, its employees, or any other aspect of the organization;
10. <u>Formally censures</u> the department of Co-operative Education and Career Action due to underperformance in the delivery of support systems for co-op students, until such time that the Board deems CECA's or the Faculty of Science's actions sufficient for redress;

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Passed by a Vote:

11. Requests that CECA provide readily available, up-to-date termly job hiring rates for individual disciplines or programs so as to help prospective and enrolled non-co-op students make more informed program choices;
12. Decides to remain actively seized on the matter.