



Canadian Alliance of Student Associations General Assembly Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2011

Topic: New Federalism

Roll Call:

Present:

Acadia Students' Union
Dalhousie Student Union
FÉÉCUM
Red River College Students' Association
McMaster University Students' Union
Mount Allison University Students' Administrative Council
Saint Mary's University Student Association
St. Thomas University Students' Union
Students Association of Mount Royal University
University of Alberta Students' Union
University of Calgary Students' Union
University of New Brunswick (Fredericton)
University of Prince Edward Island Student Union
University Students' Council of Western Ontario
University of Waterloo Federation of Students
Wilfred Laurier University Students' Union

(16 present)

Absent:

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Students' Association
Kwantlen Student Association
University of Lethbridge Students' Union
Brock University Students' Union
University of the Fraser Valley Student Union Society
University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society
Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
Graduate Students University of Waterloo

(8 absent)



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Called to Order:

4:15 pm

Discussion:

New Federalism Report

Report sent to members on April 21, 2011 as well can be found on [basecamp](#).

Chair: We are here to talk about the report that was prepared regarding the issues of New Federalism / Switching the A's. What would be appropriate is to first open the floor to any questions or comments on the report as a whole; we will then switch to talking about the motion at the end of the report. ... I believe we have now reached quorum.

UPEI: Thank you for preparing the report and we agree with the recommendation

Western: Thanks for preparing the report. One comment to make is the reason we were for supporting New Federalism was because we are trying to change and improve / reenergize what CASA is doing – New Federalism is just 1 of I am sure many solutions, – strengthening the partnership is also just one of those. The University of Western will put our weight behind exploring how to improve CASA through the strategic plan.

MSU: The MSU would like to see more discussion on the topic of New Federalism at Policy and Strategy; we haven't really made up our mind as to whether or not we support the document.

ND: To comment for just a second – the membership can of course talk about what ever issue they like, I do not want to suggest restricting that, however, the reason for the report was to hopefully set a direction, discuss the history of the issue and move on from it as it has been a discussion in some way shape or form for a number of years.

U of A: I understand that some of the incoming delegates may be interested in the idea, but the point of the report and the discussion was to prevent this from becoming cyclical and to come to a concrete conclusion. Although there is varying interests the right steps would be to look at the strategic plan, meet and discuss how we can work better together. Although we want to improve CASA this avenue may not be the best way to do it.



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U de M: I have heard a lot of interesting comments from the incoming, I would highlight the motion identifies a direction forward, and I believe the motion reflects the intention of moving forward.

Chair: Hearing no further comments we will move on to discuss the motion at the end of the report.

The motion reads:

Motion:

Whereas the board of directors has reviewed the proposed partnership communiqué and believe that the risk and threats associated with the concept of New Federalism outweigh the benefits of pursuing a new national organizational structure.

Whereas the board believes that partnership is essential to the work that CASA does.

Whereas CASA wants to ensure that current and potential partners have an open line of communication and network of support for future national initiatives.

Therefore

BIRT the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations will to not pursue the concept of New Federalism / Switching the A's.

BIFRT the Home Office in conjunction with the Board Chair redraft the CASA Partnership strategy and framework to reflect a more coordinated and planned approach to sharing information and research.

BIFRT the CASA delegation extend an invitation to host the annual meeting of the partnership at the upcoming Policy and Strategy Conference.

Moved: SMUSA

Seconded: Moncton

Western: We would like to propose an **amendment** to the main motion.



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Whereas the 2010-2011 board of directors has reviewed the proposed partnership communiqué and believe that the risk and threats associated with the concept of New Federalism outweigh the benefits of pursuing a new national organizational structure.

Whereas the board believes that partnership is essential to the work that CASA does.

Whereas CASA wants to ensure that current and potential partners have an open line of communication and network of support for future national initiatives.

Therefore

BIRT the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations will to not pursue the concept of New Federalism / Switching the A's **in the 2011 year.**

BIFRT the Home Office in conjunction with the Board Chair redraft the CASA Partnership strategy and framework to reflect a more coordinated and planned approach to sharing information and research.

BIFRT the CASA delegation extend an invitation to host the annual meeting of the partnership at the upcoming Policy and Strategy Conference.

Moved: Western
Seconded : UPEI

Chair: We will now discuss the amendment to the motion before we vote.

SMUSA: The amendment annoys me. We could say the membership can't discuss a motion on a *Tuesday* – but if they wanted they could discuss it – we cannot tie the hands of future delegates.

UNB: Although the partner's communiqué has been discussed by the 2010-2011 Board it should be noted that the 2009-2010 General Assembly and Board have discussed the concept.

SMUSA: Members can do anything – we do not want to bind our hands for the next year.



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Chair: The implication of the amendment means, while entirely free to do so, New Federalism will not be an issue the staff and the board will focus on. They will however deal with reviewing and redrafting our partnership framework.

MSU: Is for the amendments.

Chair: Hearing no more comments, I will call for a roll call vote. A reminder this vote is on the **amendment**.

MOTION FAILS:

3 in favor – 12 against

Chair: We will now move onto discussing the original motion.

U de M: Call the question.

Chair: Hearing no more comments, I will call for a roll call vote. A reminder this on the original motion.

MOTION CARRIES

Unanimous

Chair: The motion carries – thank you very much everyone. I would also like to thanks Alex Loughheed and Zach Dayler as they did the bulk of the preparation for this report. I again apologize for the delay in getting out to you all. Thank you everyone – great year and have a safe and fun summer – happy summer!

If there are no further comments is there a motion to adjourn...?

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: SMUSA

Seconded: Red River

Meeting Adjourned

4:50 pm.