



Minutes

Open Spaces
Feb 24th, 2022 15:00
Location: Virtual

Present:

Lynn Courville, President of Cambrian SAC
Sam Jemison, President of Niagara

CSA GM Jason Baryluk, CSA Policy & Research Analyst Trevor Potts,
and CSA Office Administrator Brenda Leciuk

Regrets:

Tima Shah, VP of CCSAI
Tori Arnett, President of SLC Cornwall SU
Dorothy Bui, President of SLC Brockville SU

Agenda Items

- 1. CSA GM Jason Baryluk Called Open Spaces session to order at 15:07**
- 2. CSA GM Jason Baryluk Progresses Through Agenda Items – 15:08**

Jason welcomed and thanked all student leaders to Open Spaces, and outlined the format of the session, first proceeding through key issues as put forward by student leaders prior to the session, and then indicating afterwards the opportunity to open the floor up for discussion.

- Ongoing Job Action & College Communication – 15:11

Jason gave an overview of the current Labour Action occurring on campuses: Work to Rule continues on College Campuses, whereby faculty are completing strictly the terms as directed by their contract. He also highlighted that OPSEU has voted to reject the Employer's most recent offer (62% in favour). Jason highlighted that CSA has provided several student associations with letter templates for students to directly contact both Faculty & Employer sides to appeal to return to bargaining. The GM also highlighted that this will be CSA's approach in the coming weeks, and letter-writing campaign to be launched on social media channels.

Sam expressed interest in the letter writing campaign, and that the impact of the 2017 strike still hangs over students, and the goal is to focus on not harming relationships with either faculty or administration.





Jason agreed this will be the focus of the upcoming campaign, and that it is important to air on the side of diplomacy. Lynn expressed that our focus should be to get both parties to talk, and not target solely the Ministry. Sam asked whether these letters were to be from students or be from student associations; Jason confirmed that these letters are templates designed for students to directly attach their signature to and send to both sides.

Sam expressed that Niagara students have mixed feelings surrounding the current bargaining process; some students are not aware entirely, while others are not intimidated by the current minimal impact. The latter, Sam explained, are students who remember the 2017 strike, and some have expressed fear over triggering memories and words like “strike”. Other students, Sam mentioned, are unconcerned with the current labour action, as they compare the current minimal disruptions with the 2017 strike, and say they are not concerned at all. Lynn expressed that lots of Cambrian students are unaware, and that some want to fight this and back the faculty, although she said that student opinions are all over the place. In general, they are extremely stressed, and that Cambrian SAC’s focus has been to support students as best they can.

Jason confirmed that these mixed feelings were similar to those expressed during the early February Townhall events with OPSEU and CEC.

Sam expressed that one student Director on her Board said that their prof couldn’t grant her extra lab time, citing Work-to-Rule limitations. She said this was unusual, given that this student had been told from other professors this was perfectly acceptable for professors to grant. Sam expressed she was uncertain whether this professor in question was using Work-to-Rule as an excuse to not perform extra work, or whether it was a genuine reflection of Work-to-Rule limitations. Trevor asked if this student was attempting to complete lab work specific to her program, or whether it was extra services such as office hours. Sam said she would check with this particular Director and notify us next meeting.

- **Disability and Accessibility Issues – 15:31**

Lynn indicated that a student with a disability reached out to Cambrian SAC, explaining a certain situation. She said that this student needed specific accommodations for her work placement, and that she needed to be notified that these accommodations were in place with the expected 1 month notice (as guaranteed for those needing accessibility services). This was not provided, and instead the student was told it would be only 1 week in advance. Lynn then asked whether this was a common thing only to Cambrian. Sam indicated she thought it was not. Jason asked who at Cambrian enforces these policies. Lynn and other indicated they did not know.

Lynn also indicated that for students needing large print textbooks, that the current process is to register for their course, receive textbook list, purchase the book, take it to Accessibility Office, who then contacts the US Publisher, who then sends a large print textbook. This process, Lynn mentioned, takes



approximately 7 weeks, which is unacceptable for students needing to complete their studies. In addition, Lynn said that while the Accessibility Office has pushed the Registrar's office to enable early registration for these students, the Registrar's office says they cannot do this. Lynn expressed frustration that these policies exist. Jason confirmed these frustrations, indicating that it seemed this was a bureaucratic nuisance, and that a simple fix should exist, and that Open Source is a good solution that CSA has advocated for in their recent 2022 Pre-Budget. Lynn confirmed that Open Source is a good idea to address these barriers. Lynn suggested that a research survey could be done to figure out if Accessibility issues for students with disabilities is an underreported issue across campus.

8. CSA GM Jason Baryluk Calls to Adjourn Meeting – 15:58

Jason Baryluk thanked all members for attending, and reaffirmed their concerns as key to informing CSA advocacy with the provincial government, and that the issues of Accessibility and Bargaining would be added to the agenda for the next meeting. He finished by reminding student leaders of the next Open Spaces event set for March 31 2022.

