

WHAT IS THE CSA AND WHAT IS IT SUPPOSED TO DO?

According to the CSA's own website saonline.ca, the CSA is your undergraduate "student union". For 18 500 undergraduate students the CSA is your "official representation in the university community and work[s] hard to make sure your interests and rights are being upheld".

This year members of the executive (5 elected, fulltime positions) have consistently shown an unwillingness to fight for students' rights and have advanced "initiatives" that are regressive and at odds with what student unions are supposed to be doing.

Personal advancement: an example of this year's CSA

An example of this shift in thinking is the recent changes to the executives' job titles. The "Communications Commissioner" title has recently changed to "Communications and Corporate Affairs". While the CSA is recognized as a "corporation" under provincial legislation this is largely a legal formality. The common word usage of the term does not reflect what the CSA is supposed to do... *fight for your rights*. But the new title will look good on the current exec's resume when they break into the business world. There is also an ongoing debate on whether the CSA is in fact a "student union" at all!

Academic Rights: which side are they on?

What does fighting for your rights entail? Perhaps the biggest concern to most students is the accessibility of education and skyrocketing student debt. The average undergraduate student currently graduates \$30 000 in debt. Because this is such a huge and immediate contravention of a student's right to an education, two CSA execs have participated in tuition campaigns built into their job description.

While the External Commissioner (to her credit) has tried hard to work with the CFS's "Drop Fees" campaign, the current Academic Commissioner has done nothing to work towards more accessible education.

In addition to this, the Academic Commissioner (who was not a CSA executive last spring but was a student representative at Senate) voted to eliminate the Womens' Studies major, much to the horror of the students in WMST and a wide range of students who felt it was important to have a major that was dedicated to looking at issues of racism, sexism and heterosexism. For the Academic Commissioners' most recent support for "reforms" that cut progressive initiatives to end systemic oppression, read about the recent scrapping of employment equity

"SHAC" ATTACK ON THE HRO!

On February 10, 2010, the CSA Board will vote to eliminate their Human Rights Office. The CSA Human Rights Office (HRO) works to promote human rights on the University of Guelph campus in three ways: through raising awareness and human rights issues, taking action against human rights abuses, and advocating for students and groups who experience human rights abuses or oppression. (from the CSA HRO mandate on the CSA website) The CSA is doing this by trying to create a "SHAC" (Student Help and Advocacy Centre). Contact your CSA and ask them why four positions are better than seven, and why they are pushing this forward with so little consultation with students, their staff and advocacy and human rights organizations.

Taking your jobs

Need a job? Your student union used to offer over 30 student positions. After this year, there will be even fewer opportunities for employment for students in our student union. Control over policy & by-laws and elections have been given to a new permanent non-student. Shouldn't we the students control our organization's policies and elections? Student positions slated to be eliminated this year: Chief Electoral Officer, Human Rights Office Advocacy Coordinator, Human Rights Office Events Coordinator, Human Rights Office Office Coordinator, Research Coordinator, In-Magic Archiving Coordinator, and possibly more to come.

Pissed off?

What to do about it!

You might not agree with all of the viewpoints in this pamphlet... and that's ok! Student democracy is about expressing YOUR views to YOUR "representatives".

The executive is paid to listen to your concerns and represent your interests.

Please walk up to the CSA office (second floor of the UC) during the day and find any or all of the execs.

Or you can email any or all of the Academic Commissioner execs below?

Nathan Lachowsky
ext. 56742
csaacad@uoguelph.ca

Communications Commissioner
Gavin Armstrong
ext. 56376
csatalk@uoguelph.ca

Finance and HR Commissioner
Josh Gaber
ext. 54408
csaadmin@uoguelph.ca

Local Affairs Commissioner
Galen Fick
ext. 54407
csalocal@uoguelph.ca

External Commissioner
Mamina Mir
ext 58328
csaext@uoguelph.ca

All out to the CSA board meeting!
Save the HROI
Feb 10 - 6pm - UC 441

ABANDONING THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY

Under old CSA policy, in the event two job applicants were equally qualified, those that chose to identify with a marginalized group (queer students, students with disabilities, racialized students, etc...) would be offered the job. This is in line with the Government of Canada's definition of Employment Equity (www.hrsdc.gc.ca). No more! On January 27th, the CSA axed this policy and instead is going to keep track of who applies for their jobs, not even who gets them. Despite this, they continue to call themselves Equitable Employers.

Budget Surplus

How much money does the CSA have? They have a surplus but won't advertise how much. They spent \$20,000+ on a computer program for the business office without taking bids. Bullring prices continue to go up. Student jobs are being cut. Funds distributed to students and organizations are down. Student money should be spent on things that benefit students, and we should know how much extra is generated and have a say on where and how it is spent. It should be used to fight for students' rights.

CSA.WTF@gmail.com

*COSA

WTF!



EXCUSE ME WTF R U DOIN!

Bring back Employment Equity!
Save the HROI

For a fighting Student Union!

ALL OUT TO THE CSA
BOARD MEETING
- Feb 10 -
- 6pm -
UC441