



Clarity not Controversy

URSU and FNUUniv separate but supportive during CFS referendum

The dispute between the University of Regina's Students' Union (URSU) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) over the fall referendum has led to the misconception by many that URSU had been actively trying to exclude students of the First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) from voting in the October referendum.

Any referendum of a CFS local is governed by the CFS constitution and the referendum rules spelled out therein. In the event those rules do not cover an issue, each referendum uses a Referendum Oversight Committee (ROC), made up of two members each from the member local and the CFS, to establish the policies and procedures for the referendum.

The first issue surrounding the matter is that the FNUUniv Students' Association (FNUUniv SA) is a separate member local (Local 90) whose membership in CFS will remain intact no matter the outcome of the URSU (Local 9) referendum. URSU contends that this should mean members of Local 90 should not vote in the Local 9 referendum, as their votes would not be germane to the outcome of another member local. In effect, this is not an URSU referendum; it is a Local 9 referendum.

The CFS maintains that according to URSU's constitution (URSU's set of rules, which are not in force by virtue of the fact that it is a CFS referendum); all URSU members should be allowed to vote in all URSU referenda. In the event the CFS' rules do not cover a topic, URSU's should apply.

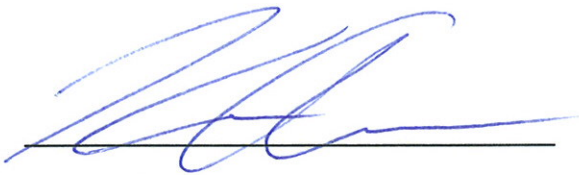
It is this difference of opinion that separates the two sides and is preventing the results of the referendum from being released.

"We are not disenfranchising FNUUniv students, far from it," said Kyle Addison, URSU President. "We simply want clarification of what rules we are supposed to be operating under when it comes to the CFS referendum."

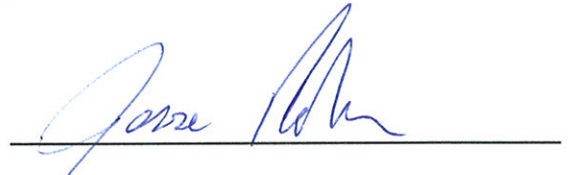
"I understand why some students are frustrated. It seems like the issue isn't moving forward. I'm disappointed that there's confusion with voting eligibility but I know URSU respects FNUUniv students, they've proved that in the past," said Jesse Robson, FNUUniv SA President. "The FNUUniv students deserve to know the results, no matter what those results are, but I remind students that no matter what happens FNUUniv remains a member of the CFS."

URSU wants the public to know that it stands by the FNUUniv SA, as both groups are committed to advancing the cause of university students in Canada and both help strengthen the voice of their respective students.

Any decision made after a free and democratic vote will be honoured by both groups as long as there is no confusion surrounding the referendum. Democracy is the right of Canadian citizens and any confusion surrounding a vote only acts to diminish that right.



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