
Minutes

Members' Assembly
May 30th and 31st, 2015

List of Attendees

Name	Association
Mélissa C. Tremblay	AECSP
Stephan Fogaing	AECSP
Bruno Belzile	AECSP
Marc-Antoine Plante	AEENAP
Julie Durand	AéESG
Ariane Dugas-Angrignon	AéESG
Anthony Blond	AéESG
Anne-Sophie Lachapelle	AEETS
Christian Djoko	AELIÉS
Jérôme Laviolette	AEP
Adam Samson	AEP
Mathieu Lefebvre	AGEUQAT
Pier-Marc Corriveau	AGEUQAT
Thierry Bouchard-Vincent	CADEUL
Rod Giorgis	CADEUL
Gabriel Velasco	CSU
Marie D. Gauthier	FAECUM
Nicolas Bérubé	FAECUM
Nicolas Lavallée	FAECUM
Simon Bouthiller	FEUS
Francis Gravel-Saint-Pierre	FEUS
Julien Ouellet	PGSS
Bradley Por	PGSS
Joël Vaudeville	PSM – Regulations Coordinator
Guillaume Girard	PSM – Associative Relations Coordinator
Caroline Aubry-Abel	PSM – Working Groups Coordinator
Guillaume Raymond	REMDUS
Jean-Sébastien Gagné	REMDUS
Emily Boytinck	SSMU

Projet d'ordre du jour :

1. Initial Procedures
 - 1.1. Opening of the Assembly
 - 1.2. Appointment of the President and Secretariat of the assembly
 - 1.3. Presentation and adoption of the Agenda
 2. FAÉCUM's membership
 3. Round table
 4. Financial contribution
 5. Review of the Coordinating Committee's start-of-mandate
 - 5.1. Officers' reports
 - 5.2. Work plan
 6. Presentation of the Coordinating Committee's summary report
 7. Plenary on internal structures
 8. Plenary on voting methods
 9. Review of the process
 10. Varia
 11. Closing of the Assembly
-

0. Presence of observers
-

1. Initial Procedures
 - 1.1. Opening of the Assembly

The meeting is opened with quorum at 10:27 a.m.

- 1.2. Appointment of the President and Secretariat of the assembly

PGSS proposes:

20150530 AM 01

That Guy-Aume Descoteaux and Kian Maghare be named respectively chair and secretary of the assembly.

AéESG seconds.

No request to vote

Adopted unanimously

- 1.3. Presentation and adoption of the Agenda

AECSP proposes:

20150530 AM 02

That the agenda for the meeting of the first working group of the Members' Assembly, on May 30th and 31st, 2015, be adopted.

PGSS seconds.

No request to vote

Adopted unanimously

2. FAÉCUM's membership

The adhesion of an association requires a resolution from the Members' Assembly

PGSS proposes:

20150530 AM 03

That the PSM recognize the adhesion of FAECUM.

CADEUL seconds

No request to vote

Adopted unanimously

3. Round table

AEP

AEP's board is up to date on how things are advancing and support them moving forward to help create something enduring.

PGSS

Our council almost unanimously approved our adhesion to the PSM. Our transition will take place tomorrow. The new vice-president of external affairs is interested in continuing the project.

SSMU

I'm pleased to be here. We have a mandate to participate as observers of the PSM's work. McGill students are skittish on the subject of associations with a provincial role, but SSMU thinks that it is time to join a provincial association.

AGEUQAT

The executive is pleased and enthusiastic about the work that is happening.

CSU

We are here to observe and have no mandates. We want to see how things develop.

FAÉCUM

Thank you for welcoming us. We made a report to our Central Council and produced a memorandum with 33 recommendations on what a national association should be.

REMDUS

Our board is up to date, as is our general assembly. We want to participate in the creation of a new national organization. We're currently preparing a tour of the associations.

AEENAP

This is AEENAP's first participation. We're here to get information to be presented to our Board.

CADEUL

We've undertaken internal consultations. We're pleased to be here and to be working with all of you.

FEUS

We have the mandate to see what is happening here and at the Regional Table.

AECSP

We have a mandate to participate in these meetings and the discussions.

AéESG

We want to inform our Central Council on what is taking place. A committee has been created in relation to this project so as to keep people informed.

AÉETS

No follow-up with our board since the last meeting. It is difficult to interest our students in these issues.

4. Financial contribution

Working Groups Coordinator

Any contributions to the PSM need to be adopted by the Members' Assembly. We will go through the document to confirm whether the indicated amounts for each member association are correct.

Distribution of the documents in session

AÉETS

Are goods and services included in establishing the conditional threshold for CADEUL's contribution?

CADEUL

Yes.

Associative Relations Coordinator

We were asked to establish a process for the reimbursement of associations. Article 43 of the contract was modified to satisfy the associations. This addendum to the contract must be adopted by a 2/3 majority.

Reading of the Addendum

When the PSM is dissolved, there will be a pro rata reimbursement of the contributions made and the remainders. To pay the difference between the remainders and the entirety of the contributions, a "fees holiday" (a proportional reduction in an association's contribution) would be established over the first 3 years, if the project succeeds.

AéESG

The proposal refers to members of the national association, but what about members of the PSM who withdraw from the process before the creation of a national association? And what happens if no national association is created?

Associative Relations Coordinator

If the project doesn't succeed, then the money is lost. An association that doesn't affiliate to the future national association would lose their money.

CADEUL

The previous Article 43 took into account cases where an association participated in the PSM over the summer but did not affiliate.

CADEUL proposes the following amendment:

To add a new line to the addendum that would read as follows: "All member associations of the PSM that do not affiliate"

AéESG seconds

No request to vote

Amendment adopted amicably

FAECUM

That's an excellent addition. We also need to add a clause such that an association that joins the national association and subsequently quits during the years in which their fees are being reimbursed can still recuperate all of their money.

FAECUM proposes the following amendment:

To add a reimbursement system that allows an association that joins the national association and then quits in the years during which their fees are being reimbursed to still recuperate their money.

CADEUL seconds

Amendment adopted amicably

AECSP proposes the following amendment:

That the term "fees holiday" be replaced by "partial reimbursement over three years".

AEP seconds

No request to vote

Adopted unanimously

CADEUL proposes:

20150530 AM 04

That the addendum to the associative contract be adopted as modified.

AECSP seconds.

No request to vote

Adopted unanimously

CADEUL

We don't want the maximum contributions to be adopted, because we don't want to be constrained to pay the full \$15,000.

AEETS

Do you want to submit each contribution to the Members' Assembly?

CADEUL

We want the contributions to be adopted in several steps, based on needs.

PGSS

REMDUS is contributing offices. If ever they were to quit, would the PSM's Coordinating Committee lose their workspace?

REMDUS

If we were to leave the table, we'd still leave them the offices until the end of the summer.

AEETS

At what point do the total contributions match the provisions of the Coordinating Committee?

Regulations Coordinator

Our wish isn't to spend everything, but we'll spend based on what the Board of Directors judges as necessary and in consideration of all of the contributions over the summer.

CADEUL

Is the money currently available sufficient for the next working group?

Working Groups Coordinator

Yes, about. When can we expect to receive these sums?

AEP

We have our cheque.

AGEUQAT

We have our cheque.

CADEUL

We'll send our cheque soon.

FAECUM proposes:

20150530 AM 05

That the Members' Assembly approve all financial contributions by the member associations, as outlined in the document.

REMDUS seconds.

No request to vote.

Adopted unanimously.

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5. Review of the Coordinating Committee's start-of-mandate
 - 5.2. Officers reports

The Coordinating Committee presents its report on the beginning of their mandate

CADEUL

Did you contact the associations that are not around the table?

REMDUS

That will be presented in the work plan.

CADEUL

There's no External Affairs Coordinator, how will their tasks be accomplished?

Working Groups Coordinator

The tasks will be completed when necessary. The political monitoring is being done. We have a more reactive than proactive role between the working groups. We're being sent CADEUL's press review. At the beginning of our mandate we spent a lot of time organizing the first working group. After the meeting, we'll be able to dedicate a bit more to the tasks assigned to the vacant positions.

AéESG

The General Coordinator resigned. The associations had wanted a five-person coordinating committee due to the heavy workload to be accomplished. We're concerned for the well-being of the execs, with two vacant positions. Are you taking any actions to ensure you'll all be able to work at this rhythm over the whole summer?

Working Groups Coordinator

We have a good dynamic between the three of us. We meet every day. We believe it's possible to do good work over the summer as three people. We'll be discussing our working conditions with the Directors' Assembly tomorrow, as well as the possibility for vacations, etc.

AéESG

The vacant positions are in the contract, so what happens now? Do we need to modify the contract?

Working Groups Coordinator

No one has presented themselves for these positions. We can discuss opening these positions and filling them, or removing them. In terms of our reports, could we have some reactions? Do you want to see any changes in their form?

CADEUL

We'd like to see a more descriptive portion about what has been done in relation to the project's orientations. Add comments.

AEETS

It's a good process, but we'd like to see something more uniform. As regards the call for memoirs, certain associations did not send a memoir or didn't share it with the other participating associations. This creates an inequality.

Working Groups Coordinator

We don't have the prerogative to send the documents to all of the associations. They can send you the document themselves if they so wish.

AEETS

We suggest making a Google drive and rendering the memoirs available in that way.

PGSS

Not every association wants their writings to be made public. The associations should say whether they agree to its publication or not.

AECSP

It would be best if an association made a formal proposal for the publication of the documents.

AEETS proposes:

That all memoirs be made available from the same place at the same time.

REMDUS seconds

PGSS proposes the following amendment:

That the memoirs that are designated "public" be public and those designated "private" be private.

REMDUS seconds

FAECUM

The coordinating committee needs to ensure that the documents they receive are disseminated or not according to the will of the members.

AEENAP

It would be a good idea to create a Google drive for the use of associations who want to make their memoir public.

AEETS

Why would an association participate in the PSM and not want their documents to be public? We're concerned that it represents a bad-faith strategy. A full access to information for all should be the rule.

REMDUS

We don't take AEETS' comment as an attack. We have no problem in making the documents public around this table, but we don't want our documents to circulate outside of the PSM. We want the debate that takes place in Sherbrooke to be about the final project, not how it was done.

FAECUM

If an association wants one of their documents to be published, then the Coordinating Committee can publish it. Otherwise, the association must have the choice. We want to inform our members at a time of our choosing and in front of the appropriate body.

AEP

We understand that certain associations don't necessarily want to render their documents public, but we encourage everyone to share their content with the other associations around the table. The mailing list is controlled.

Working Groups Coordinator

A decision made here cannot coerce associations in their relation with us. If an association doesn't want a document made public, it belongs to them, regardless of any motion passed here.

AECSP

We would need to define what is meant by public. When we say public, does that include the members of the PSM and those groups we know want to participate in the working groups?

AEETS

We must constrain associations to make their documents available, there shouldn't be any secrets.

AEP

The memoirs of other associations must be kept private.

AéESG

We're losing time. It's up to the discretion of each. The associations need to organize themselves amongst each other to have the documents. The goal isn't to impose a way of doing things on other associations. The associations can arrange things among themselves.

AEENAP

We understand AEETS' point of view, but some associations disagree. We have to respect their point of view.

PGSS

The best solution is to leave the prerogative to each association of sharing their documents and to say that the Coordinating Committee cannot require that a document be made public. We invite you all to defeat the amendment and the initial motion.

AEETS calls the question

*Vote on calling the question
Adopted by two-thirds majority*

AEETS

We re-iterate our call for transparency, which is one of the PSM's values.

Return to the initial motion

The vote is requested by PGSS.
Adopted by majority

5.3. Work Plan

Presentation of the work plans by the Coordinating Committee and then questions for each point of the document

1.1

FAECUM

Is there a timeline for future meetings with the student associations who aren't participating?

Working Groups Coordinator

It wasn't indicated, but follow-ups will be done regularly. If an association requests to meet with us, we would be happy to meet with them, but the important costs related to transportation must be considered.

1.2

No questions

1.3

REMDUS

Watch out for errors in your document.

Working Groups Coordinator

Sorry for any errors. We want to add that MAGE-UQAC refuse to meet with us. We would encourage you, the associations, to speak with other associations who aren't participating to encourage them to participate in the process.

REMDUS proposes the following amendment:

Modify point 1.3 to include INRS and all of its components and remove AETELUQ.

Seconded by PGSS

AéESG

Why remove AETELUQ?

REMDUS

Historically, they've created problems for national associations.

PGSS

We met with AETELUQ, they seem interested, but they don't receive the emails addressed to them.

The vote is requested by AGEUQAT

Adopted by majority

REMDUS

We'd prefer to have people discuss more so as not to end up with a majority of abstentions.

CADEUL

We don't know AETELUQ. We could split the motion.

Motion to split the initial motion in two is adopted amicably.

REMDUS proposes the following amendment:

Modify point 1.3 to include INRS and all of its components

PGSS seconds.

No request to vote

Adopted unanimously

REMDUS proposes the following amendment:

Modify point 1.3 to remove AÉTÉLUQ

PGSS seconds.

PGSS

What did you mean when you described AETELUQ as radioactive?

REMDUS

During the last national affiliation, they caused a lot of problems.

AGEUQAT

There are a lot of students taking distance education courses. We'd like for AETELUQ to be present.

PGSS

Those problems are very old now, we can approach them without issue.

REMDUS

It hasn't been that long, but we can still contact them.

AEP

The PSM project is inclusive, we're starting from the principle that everyone is in good faith. We don't want to exclude anyone.

AeESG

We second AEP.

AEETS calls the question

The question is called unanimously

Return to the initial motion

Defeated unanimously

CADEUL

We want to add "formally invite the associations to participate" to the work plan.

Working Groups Coordinator

It's implicit. It wasn't mentioned, but we have three mailing lists.

Explanation of the three mailing lists

AEENAP

Do you send the calls for memoirs to all the associations?

Working Groups Coordinator

Yes, we send them to everyone.

AEENAP

Couldn't that be considered spam?

Working Groups Coordinator

No one has requested to be removed from the list.

SSMU

The association MCSS from McGill is not present here, they should be contacted.

AEP

They need to be kept up to date and, if they're interested in the future, they could join the table.

CADEUL

We encourage an inclusive process.

AEENAP

We consider that unrequested e-mails are bothersome, that's publicity that wasn't requested.

AELIÉS arrives at 12:18 p.m.

AEESG

On the subject of AGEUQO, we approached them and recommended that they contact the Coordinating Committee.

2.1

No questions

3.

No questions

Working Groups Coordinator

Take note that the work plan is modifiable throughout the summer.

AEETS

We find that you're doing very well.

AEESG proposes:

20150530 AM 06

That the Coordinating Committee's summer work plan be adopted as modified.

PGSS seconds

*No request to vote
Adopted unanimously*

Break at 12:26 p.m.

6. Presentation of the Coordinating Committee's summary report

Resumption at 1:37 p.m.

Presentation of the synthesis report by the Coordinating Committee.

AEENAP

I didn't receive the document that you are referring to.

Working Groups Coordinator

I'll send it to you right away over Facebook, it will be faster.

AéESG

We didn't receive the organigram from the synthesis report.

Working Groups Coordinator

I'll send it.

FAECUM

Procedural question: should we propose modifications now or wait until the end of the presentation again?

Assembly Chair

After the presentation, if that's agreeable to all.

PGSS

The arrows linking the Members' Assembly to the committees, there are no returning arrows?

Working Groups Coordinator

There are no arrows because the committee does not have an inherent power of initiative. It must respond to mandates from the Assembly.

AEP

Is this a synthesis of all the memoirs or rather your own proposal?

Working Groups Coordinator

It represents a synthesis of all the proposals included in the memoirs we received.

FAECUM

For the Regional Affairs Committee, what constitutes a regional association?

Working Groups Coordinator

An association with student members in a university located in a region.

CADEUL

The Local Affairs Committee seems to have been removed. It was there to bring together the issues that are not necessarily regional. Why was it removed?

Working Groups Coordinator

The regional committee seemed to represent a larger consensus.

AEETS

The individuals sitting on the Members' Assembly and the Directors' Assembly are the same? For smaller association who might have only a single representative, that could be complicated.

Working Groups Coordinator

The idea is to have one member per association. If you wish to mandate more than one person, that belongs to you. That's an issue of local sovereignty.

AECSP

I don't think I understand AEETS' reservations.

AEETS

Similar issues could be treated by the two bodies. A representative would therefore have to take both the position of their members and another in the best interest of the corporation.

AEENAP

The power to create a committee must also be a power to mandate it?

Working Groups Coordinator

Once created, the Working Committee is autonomous as regards its mandates. The Members' Assembly will set only the subject it treats.

AEP

The power to create a committee includes the power to dissolve it?

AÉETS

The Working Committees will be created and be given clear procedural rules? Or do they decide for themselves how they wish to function?

Working Groups Coordinator

We didn't focus on that point. You'll be able to clarify it in the plenary.

7. Presentation of the Coordinating Committee's process

The Working Groups Coordinator explains the functioning of the plenary and the coloured cards.

8. Plenary on internal structures

Working Groups Coordinator

We can begin with the Members' Assembly. I invite you to share your impressions and modifications that could be brought. The goal of the coloured cards is to aid in reaching a consensus. We will therefore not be starting with formal proposals.

CADEUL

The opportunity for a proposals workbook was mentioned. Individual members could also take part in this proposals workbook. We think that the system should be modeled on the National Assembly's and operate through on-line petitions. A particular petition could be added to proposals workbook. A logistical dimension remains and we're conscious of the challenges. What do others think?

AECSP

How would we verify the origin of student members that vote on this common platform?

CADEUL

We think we could verify identities based on the membership lists of each association.

AéESG

In the context where a student loses a point during a General Assembly, they could directly seize the National Association.

CADEUL

Yes, that's a relevant issue and I think it's a question to be posed to all those present.

AÉETS

I think it's a good idea. The individual members are often disconnected from the National Association. As for the question posed by AéESG, it's a consultative process, and if an issue is judged to be pertinent then it could be taken up.

FAECUM

Would this process compel the Members' Assembly?

CADEUL

There could be a specific point for the petitions on the Agenda where we could examine them.

FEUS

It's a very good idea. It shouldn't be constraining. And it would be very easy to put in place.

REMDUS

It seems like a difficult operationalization. It's a lot of resources. And we have another concern: the petition could be instrumentalized by movements that don't share our vision.

PGSS

I think it's a nice idea, but it could be complicated to put in place right away. I also don't think it's essential to the creation of the National Association.

CADEUL

It would be something put in place by steps. We could limit the time allowed, we could pair the questions, we could oblige associations to sponsor a petition, etc. So, we can think about the system. So that people know that it will eventually be there.

AECSP

I fear abuses. A petition that would request illegal action could put the association in a situation where they need to explain why they have to reject that type of idea or action.

Working Groups Coordinator

What I'm hearing is that you find the idea interesting, but maybe not essential. We could therefore discuss it again to see about operationalizing all of this. The Coordinating Committee, or CADEUL, could come back with a more concrete proposal that takes into account the issues raised here.

AÉETS

Including individual members is a real challenge and a desire of our association. It could be a founding value.

AEP

Effectively, we could mandate the CoCo to formulate a proposal.

REMDUS

For reflection, this could be a process for each action plan. Opening the website for a specific question.

AELIÉS

It's not just how it could be operationalized. We must ensure that the worst case scenario doesn't come to pass.

FAECUM

On the subject of modifying the by-laws. This is a long and arduous process. We need to have the time to discuss with our members. Proposals to amend the by-laws need to be sent to the members in advance to ensure a full consultation.

AEP

Why limit ourselves to the by-laws? We could use the same process for every issue.

FAECUM

Slowing down the process isn't beneficial in other cases. By-laws don't need to be amended urgently.

PGSS

Our decision-making bodies don't meet over the summer.

REMDUS

We agree that the Members' Assembly should be the ultimate decision-making body. Three months between meetings seems a bit much. I would see it meeting monthly.

CADEUL

We like that a single body would have the prerogative for all decisions and policies.

AECSP

I'm guessing that, if there are no interventions on the subject of the synthesis report, then it must hold a consensus. To respond to REMDUS, resources are too limited to hold an Assembly every month.

AEENAP

Can the Board of Directors override the powers of the Assembly?

Working Groups Coordinator

Yes, for legal questions. But that can be controlled by the by-laws.

FEUS

A board of directors can contradict any decision made by the Assembly. But the Assembly can remove directors.

AEENAP

We're concerned by the possible slowness of the process given that the Members' Assembly will have additional delegates intervening. Possibility of holding assemblies by video-conference?

AÉETS

We have questions about the associative culture and the rigidity of mandates. We would like to see less room for individuality, and therefore more detailed action plans

REMDUS

Video-conferencing is not really well adapted for the adoption of an action plan. As regards the dynamic, I have concerns about too heavily limiting committees. We don't detest the model used by the FEUQ.

Working Groups Coordinator

For the purpose of working on documents in committee, we could avoid in-person meetings by utilizing different online platforms.

FAECUM

To echo what was said by REMDUS, one thing is clear: if there is a difference in the voting systems between the commissions and the Assembly. We need to ensure that they have identical methods or rather that the directions be clear for each committee.

Working Groups Coordinator

We can take note of that intervention and the second plenary will touch on it.

REMDUS

We need to ensure a common vision for the powers of each body.

CADEUL

As regards the relationship between the Assembly and the Committees, we want to see a horizontal rapport in which the associations have a certain initiative. A recommendation power could be given to the committees.

AEP

A possible problem has been raised. Different voting systems will influence the prerogatives of each committee.

AECSP

The plenary is on the bodies and not their voting systems. We must be careful not to give mandates that are too specific. We must provide large mandates so as to leave some latitude for the committees.

FAECUM

We like the idea of there not even being votes in committees, to ensure that any subject that doesn't reach a consensus would be treated by the Assembly.

PGSS

Committees could be held before the Assembly. The results of the Committee would then be brought back to the Assembly to be discussed.

Working Groups Coordinator

We passed over the question of the proposals workbook quite quickly. I have the impression that there's a consensus on the subject but I'd like to take an indicative vote.

AEETS

It's a workbook that would be sent to the members before the meeting?

Working Groups Coordinator

It's inspired somewhat from the model used by ASSÉ. The goal is to have everyone be aware of what will be coming at the meeting and for associations to have the chance to consult their own internal bodies.

FAECUM

We like the idea, but we want to know if such an undertaking is possible. We know that a one month delay can be difficult and we want to know if everything can be accomplished.

CADEUL

We simply want to specify the delay limiting associations from adding new points to the agenda.

Working Groups Coordinator

What is specified in the workbook is that there must be a delay, we're proposing 15 days. For new motions to be treated during the meeting, there would have to be some urgency.

AEP

We need to define what type of interventions can be brought in advance and which can be brought at the last minute.

AECSP

It's important for motions to be sent in advance, but we also need to maintain space for things to be adopted during a meeting as well. Maybe it could just be the topics that are sent in advance?

AEETS

This is exactly what we see as the kind of rigidity that is needed. We need to stop people who are, let's say, on vacation down south from being able to come and bring their proposals late.

REMDUS

We respect the 15 days, for sure, but I think that we need to keep a door open for urgent matters. In case a dossier we weren't anticipating arises.

Working Groups Coordinator

The idea of having this workbook is to allow the associations to bring their proposals to the Members' Assembly in advance so that all of the associations can participate in the debate. This idea also allows associations to consult their internal bodies and members, if they so desire. The goal isn't to overly constrain the process, but to ensure that associations can bring their proposals.

Break

Working Groups Coordinator

Turning to the Committees, we can deal with these as a block if that is agreeable. We'd like to hear from you about these. We can also return to the question of the committees' relationship to the Members' Assembly.

AEETS

I want to know, what exactly is meant by producing recommendations? Does it simply mean producing a report and making it public or rather having positions adopted that we would then be working from.

Working Groups Coordinator

We want to know whether committees will have the autonomy to discuss subject X or Y without having been given the mandate to do so, or whether it takes one.

REMDUS

We'd like to speak about a body that has less consensus: the regional committee. We were approaching the structure from this perspective: regional campus associations have fewer means, we therefore want a committee that assures a certain redistribution. We therefore hire a researcher and an internal coordinator who assist the associations with their local campaigns. In the FEUQ, the local affairs coordinator often had the task of pushing the national campaign at the local level rather than working on local issues. The idea here isn't to create a big national campaign on, for example, student housing, but rather to prioritise certain ideas that come from the local associations and to think how associations could work locally on those issues.

AEP

We're not against the idea, I just have a few questions. Is there a budget associated to this? Is it exclusive such that, for example, AEP wouldn't be a member? And the other reason, what's a region, who composes it?

REMDUS

I very much thought of it as a regional question, but is it worthwhile to discuss it as being an assistance to small-associations? We'd be helping the smaller associations. In terms of budget, I see it requiring an executive and a researcher.

FAÉCUM

The proposal being made here crosscuts others. The CADEUL was proposing a table for local issues. We are proposing the FRAS, which could integrate these types of initiatives and challenges. For example, the CRAIES which is lacking a person who holds things together between meetings.

AELIÉS

I have a problem with calling something a regional affairs committee. It doesn't really match with reality. How do we view regions? Will we still view them the same way in the coming years? For us, we're more comfortable with a local affairs committee because, for me, the word "region" is already coloured, while the idea of local affairs corresponds more closely to what associations are effectively experiencing.

PGSS

I wonder, for the question of launching projects, whether the FRAS is an idea that ties in nicely with what REMDUS is proposing. I think that having a researcher attached to the FRAS would better serve its dossiers.

REMDUS

The problem with the FRAS is that it takes three associations to create it. If something is really a local issue, then AGEUQAT would have to go and find two other associations who support them in the process. We have this idea that there should be resources there for the small associations and that they be able to do with them what they will without Montreal having their piece to say about it.

AGEUQAT

That idea really works for us, this form of redistribution.

Indicative vote

Committee dedicated to regional affairs, mostly green

Committee dedicated to small associations, mostly green

Committee dedicated to local affairs, mostly green

FAECUM

We'll explain our red card: we don't want regional associations to not be represented. We have members in the region, about a thousand, and those people have told us that they want us to represent them on every possible body. For small associations, we think that it needs to be specified what is a small and large association. FEUS is a very median association. Concerning local affairs, we're a little ill at ease if the actors aren't national.

REMDUS

We really see it in the same manner as FAECUM poses the question of small associations and we'd like to precise. We think that a redistributive system is needed between large and small associations, it gives an argument to small associations that assists them affiliating.

CADEUL

Would it be possible to further specify its role and mandate?

REMDUS

In short, people meet to share the workhours of the employee and executive. They don't need to make decisions at the level of taking positions, but really just at the level of sharing their workhours.

Indicative vote

On the question of having a committee that shares resources, but doesn't take positions as such, mostly green.

AEP

For FAECUM, would it be possible for your delocalized campuses to have a seat without it being for all of your members? For REMDUS, would there be accountability to the Members' Assembly?

REMDUS

For issues that are financed by this, it would be necessary that they not go against the national associations' positions. Yes, there must be accountability to the Members' Assembly. We also understand that the needs will be smaller until more regional associations affiliate.

AéESG

There's nothing being said around the table presently that is directly opposed. I think it's time to start merging all these ideas together.

CADEUL

We wonder if REMDUS' proposal would satisfy AGEUQAT and the other associations not around the table.

FAECUM

In response to AEP's question, our delocalized campus associations are quite small, and they've explicitly asked that we do it ourselves. I'm still wondering what constitutes a small association. I also have questions about the capacities of the person acting as coordinator. Such as, could they develop so much expertise at once? It would be a shame for the person taking that role to chalk up multiple failures. I'm also afraid for the resources. How can we protect ourselves from abuses and make sure that small associations don't eventually join just to augment their revenue using the FRAS. We agree with AéESG, I think that we need to put something in common on the table.

AGEUQAT

Yes, what's being proposed by REMDUS very much satisfies us.

Working Groups Coordinator

I think it's understood that we need a proposal that rallies a consensus. We have a lot of elements to give us the guiding lines and the debates were converging. But, there are still some adjustments to be made to ensure that everything fits together.

FAECUM

The Academic Committee doesn't pose any problems. The CASP at the FEUQ was a big problem, so we would propose abolishing the whole issue of socio-political affairs. The very reason for having a national association is to talk about higher education, other affairs posed a big problem when associations would come and add 15 issues that would never end up being resolved. The FRAS allows funds to be allocated for research and campaigns. The process taking place a bit like a funding request, the board of directors looks at whether it is well put together. When a few projects are ready, the Members' Assembly will choose some of them and could then engage with those issues. We are therefore proposing to remove the CASP so as to go about it in this manner instead.

REMDUS

We're more or less in agreement with having the FRAS handle social issues, but we also believe that the CASP must be maintained to speak about issues that directly affect students.

Working Groups Coordinator

In the synthesis proposal, the CASP deals only with social issues. AFE and FIOs are now treated by the academic table.

PGSS

The FRAS has a more marginal role, while the CASP is more present.

Indicative vote

On the removal of the CASP, fairly yellow/red

CADEUL

We agree with PGSS, let's keep social issues within the Members' Assembly rather than marginalising them in a FRAS.

SSMU

One possibility would be to conserve a socio-political committee. Normally, academic and socio-political affairs are intimately linked. One possibility that SSMU would like to propose would be that the CASP have the power to create more ad hoc working committees to treat certain, more complex, issues.

FAECUM

Sometimes, certain issues treated in the CASP were also discussed in the CAU. The FRAS is a way of restructuring the CASP, we believe. Then the Members' Assembly can prioritize what the FRAS is financing.

PGSS

The FRAS is an excellent idea, but we shouldn't replace the CASP. The FRAS works for more punctual campaigns, and the CASP can handle more long term issues.

Working Groups Coordinator

If we decide to keep the CASP, the Members' Assembly will have to choose which issues are more consensual and the most important will be treated by the CASP, less important issues will have working committees created for them.

REMDUS

What I understand, from what the Coordinating Committee is saying, is that the CASP would continue to exist, it would have $\frac{3}{4}$ of the priority issues for the year and the others would be treated by working committees.

Working Groups Coordinator

If only 3 or 4 associations want to work on an issue, it would be in a working committee.

FAECUM

It's important to take resources into consideration. A balance must be found between social issues and issues in education. Social issues shouldn't be treated to the detriment of those in education.

AEP

We understand well the idea of the FRAS, and we agree, but we don't think it can cover all of the issues.

REMDUS

I'd like to hear from SSMU, CSU, and PGSS, on the role of social issues.

SSMU

These are really essentials issue that we need to address. I just don't wanna see these issues being marginalized, it's not important the structure but more the resources that are given to these issues.

CSU

People don't see it tangled together and I feel it's not that important the structure but it's more asking how would a ASP campaign look like in the national structure that doesn't have this kind of structure.

FAECUM

The way in which a campaign against austerity could succeed: a few associations meet together to discuss then propose an issue to the Members' Assembly, which decides its importance. The FRAS guarantees that funds are then provided.

PGSS

I think these are two ways of arriving at the same result. I wonder if we could have a FRAS that would prove very effective and that would eventually displace the CASP.

Indicative vote

Removing the CASP from the structure, a lot of red

AEP

Question for CSU and SSMU: you've said that the structure isn't the issue, but rather that these issues need to be engaged with. Do you have ideas for a structure?

CADEUL

We believe that the CASP should be maintained. We have a certain sensibility towards social issues on our campus. We would conserve both for the moment.

REMDUS

I agree with CADEUL. A FRAS that is managed by the CASP could be another idea?

SSMU

Are like suggestion of REMDUS, that the fund will be managed by CASP. I sort of see the comitee for academic affair being more in the bureaucratic, and the academic. And the ASP would be nourished from social movement and that's why I like to have faculty and/or campus social grass-root implicated in this.

FAECUM

The CASP never worked because it had too many issues.

Indicative vote

On the idea of creating a fund dedicated to socio-political affairs, placed under the CASP's umbrella, rather green

AÉESG

Only a single project was proposed. I'd like to hear if people have other projects. I'd prefer we not limit our debate, and put everything on the table.

CSU

I have a hard time on taking a strong decision in it, we don't yet know the level of control of the different bodies.

AEP

We don't know yet what other possibilities might be.

AELIÉS

From what I understand from FAECUM's proposal, there is a fear of falling into the trap of "that which grabs too much holds little". I think that going towards a middle-ground solution is a really good idea.

AEETS

I fear that we're in the process of creating an administrative labyrinth. I have the impression that we're trying to create a lot of structures for nothing.

Indicative vote

On the definition of the CASP's role given by the Coordinating Committee, rather green

Working Groups Coordinator

The specific working committees can be created by the Members' Assembly and deal with issues that fall outside the initial frame of the national association. These are committees that can profit from the FRAS' resources, and can recommend positions for adoption.

CADEUL

We like the idea, having lived it in the CRAIES, but we were disappointed by the project's outcome. We like that associations can get resources to coordinate themselves.

FEUS

What role would be accorded to faculty, departmental, and program specific associations?

Working Groups Coordinator

They could participate with the same rights as member associations. Everything really remains to be specified within the internal regulations of the working group.

Indicative vote on the idea of specific working committees, all green.

AEP

Is there a system that will permit an issue to be dealt with by both the FRAS and by a specific working committee?

Working Groups Coordinator

If something is being discussed as a sub-group of the CASP, I have the impression that the associations will decide whether they want to open the FRAS or not.

AEP

So the FRAS remains internal and the working committees are external. Do the working committees reserve a seat only for external groups paying into it?

Working Groups Coordinator

That's not how it had been thought of.

PGSS

Maybe we need to think that, if a group wants to participate in a working committee, they should pay a fee.

CADEUL

The idea being that groups not come and form a lobby within the national association.

AECSP

We are going to define the specific work conditions individually.

PGSS

It isn't written that the working groups manage their own internal procedures, it might need to be specified.

AEETS

Can we hold an indicative vote on the procedural structure of these working groups?

REMDUS

I don't think working committees should have the prerogative to define their own structure, but the frame in which they'll evolve should be specified in the mandate creating them.

PGSS

That's it. In my presentation, I was saying that the people who want to create a specific working committee have to define the operating procedures for it when they submit the project.

Working Groups Coordinator

In response to what the REMDUS is saying, it's the people making the request that have to submit the way they want to organize things. If we define them directly in the by-laws, we could have a lot of difficulty doing things in a frame that's too rigid.

PGSS

There will be so many different circumstances that we shouldn't both defining general regulations too specifically, but rather at the time of creation. If we leave them the flexibility of establishing their own operating procedures, we need to establish a code of ethics.

Indicative vote in relation to the procedure for creating specific working committees, all green.

Working Groups Coordinator

The graduate studies committee, similarly to the regional committee, would be exclusive to those associations that represent graduate students. This committee would be able to share dedicated resources and engage with all issues related to graduate studies and research.

AECSP

It's extremely important to have such a group, for us.

AEETS

I'm wondering how the membership of this committee is envisaged.

FAECUM

Our associations have asked that undergraduate associations also be included. The Committee must have the necessary resources to succeed and have enough executives to work. Communications between meetings must be frequent.

AéESG

In our memoir, we discuss the FEUQ's CNCS. We have as many undergraduate as graduate programs, and it's something that we really take to heart. We don't want to see a copy of the CNCS, but we see this committee as a necessity, a space for graduate students.

REMDUS

We understand that certain issues may have fallen between the CNCS and the FEUQ, but we think that it's important to have this body.

AEETS

An example of an issues that we'd like to see treated is that, for us, we have many international students who don't have access to the Order of Engineers in Quebec. Could we talk about professional orders?

AECSP

If it's a very precise issue, it should go to a specific work committee.

REMDUS

If the CNCS, or whatever name is chosen, wants to treat that as an issue then, well, it will be on their work plan.

AEETS

I had the impression that the other committees had no power, while this one did.

AECSP

Yes, we think that this must be a group with a minimum of autonomy.

FAÉCUM

We think that, if that's the case, we don't want to double structures or work.

Indicative vote on a body dedicated to graduate studies, pretty green

FAÉCUM

If there's no process to include undergraduate associations, we're yellow on the question.

AELIÉS

The FAECUM has mentioned having undergraduate associations participate, is that on an exceptional basis or as a right to participate?

Working Groups Coordinator

Presently, it's written in my notes that the CNCS should have a mechanism to include undergraduate associations.

AECSP

For us, it shouldn't be automatic but rather occasional, even exceptional.

AEP

For us, we're at ease with having a space just for graduate students where we are only integrated exceptionally.

Working Groups Coordinator

The Institutional Affairs Committee would have mandates given by the Members' Assembly to work on policies and regulations. It would only work on mandates provided by the Members' Assembly to modify by-laws and policies, and no larger prerogative than that.

REMDUS

So the Members' Assembly would provide a very clear mandate to modify the by-laws?

Working Groups Coordinator

At base, the Institutional Affairs Committee would be doing more or less what the Coordinating Committee is doing this summer.

REMDUS

We'd like to see them have more latitude.

AECSP

We think that we need to leave the latitude needed to propose alternatives to the Members' Assembly if other problems are found.

FAECUM

We'd like to see this committee also function by consensus.

AECSP

Modifications to the by-laws could only take place once a year. I think we could modify policies more easily.

REMDUS

I had seen in one of the memoirs that there could be a greater flexibility in the first few years, concerning modifications to the by-laws, but I think we need to keep the door open to being a permanent committee at that time.

*Indicative vote, on same operating procedures as the other committees, GREEN
On its ability to modify policies, but not the by-laws, on its own initiative, Green*

AEETS

I think that having flexible by-laws mustn't become a part of the culture.

Working Groups Coordinator

I think that, eventually, we're going to have to test what is currently very theoretical, and we'll have lots of things to change.

CADEUL

Effectively, the by-laws must derive from consensus, but the policies could be more at the initiative of the meetings.

AECSP

More meetings, more financial transfers to the smaller associations.

REMDUS

We're in favour

Indicative vote financial transfers, rather green.

FEUS

What is the opinion of the associations on the possibility of having faculty associations sitting on the permanent committees?

AEETS

In my mind, it's clear that it would be possible for people to come represent their association in the meetings of the federation.

FAÉCUM

For us, it has to be the largest basin for accreditation that sits at the table.

AéESG

We're a faculty association, we think that if the national association decides not to allow faculty associations, we won't be there.

FEUS

How at ease are you with the possibility of allowing faculty associations to sit in meetings with voting rights, as observers.

REMDUS

It'll also be case by case. I'm afraid of seeing FAECUM and CADEUL bring all of their member associations and how hard it would be to manage. If it isn't excessive, I have no problem with observers being present.

CADEUL

There's always the possibility of organizing one's delegation as we see fit, I think it's difficult to ascertain the scale of the question.

AEP

We're uncomfortable with giving them voting rights, but you have the right to bring people as you see fit. At the same time, we're starting to see more tentacles surrounding this issue. There are plenty of ways for faculty associations to be implicated otherwise.

Indicative vote,

On the presence of faculty associations as observers, more green

On the right to vote for faculty associations, mostly red (1 green, 1 yellow, rest red)

On the presence of faculty associations as observers with speaking rights, mostly yellow

Working Groups Coordinator

I think we can give the Coordinating Committee the mandate to examine the question of faculty association participation.

Indicative vote

On the mandate, fairly green

AEETS

For us, it's a minor issue that doesn't necessitate the Coordinating Committee examining it.

AECSP

We want to be sure that the people who come don't cause a duplication of the work and that we have two types of members.

REMDUS

Personally, my interlocutors are you, associations at the same level as mine. I'm not interested in knowing the problems that you need to manage internally.

AEP

Just a reminder that we need to leave for supper soon.

Resumption at 10:25 a.m., May 31st, 2015

Working Groups Coordinator

You have before you the proposals that came out of our discussions on Saturday afternoon. We're proposing that you remove any proposals that you wish to debate further.

Assembly Chair

Does anyone want to remove proposals?

FAECUM

13 and 19.

REMDUS

Recommendation 21.

CADEUL

I have the impression that the institutional affairs committee should have responsibility for the general policies, but not for the by-laws.

AEP

For 25, we don't see general recommendations.

AGEUQAT

In relation to that committee, is there going to be a Regional Committee?

Working Groups Coordinator

What was decided during yesterday's plenary was that there would be financial transfers and a budget dedicated to associations with more limited resources.

REMDUS

Since there are two recommendations 13, can we call one 13a and the other 13b? I'd like to see, in the part on the committee, a recommendation for a committee to manage the financial transfers.

FAÉCUM

We want to change "front" to "fund" in 13a.

Changed amicably

FAÉCUM

We want to change 19: changing permit and encourage for "to allow the associations..."

Changed amicably

REMDUS

We want to change 21: "can make its own recommendations"

Changed amicably

REMDUS proposes the following amendment:

That the Local Affairs Committee be created and have the power to manage the distribution of human resources among its member associations"

AGEUQAT seconds.

AEP

Is that only for human resources?

REMDUS

Yes, that's what we had in our memoir. But we can discuss it.

No request to vote

Adopted unanimously

AÉCSP proposes the following amendment:

That the Graduate Studies Committee be composed exclusively of associations comprising graduate student members and be able to engage in its own representation"

REMDUS seconds.

*No request to vote
Adopted unanimously*

PGSS

Permanent seats?

AÉCSP

Yes.

*No request to vote
Adopted unanimously*

CADEUL proposes:

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That recommendations 1 to 26 be adopted as modified.

REMDUS seconds.

*No request to vote
Adopted unanimously.*

9. Plenary on voting methods

Associative Relations Coordinator

When it comes to voting methods, as you can see in the synthesis workbook, no consensus exists from the meetings and memoirs. The only element that seemed to hold a consensus was the double majority system. We've given you what the associations have proposed. There are associations that want the different bodies to have different voting methods and others who want them to be the same. We could start with that.

FAECUM

I don't remember who said it... But we could come to an agreement that committees wouldn't have any voting method.

AEP

Each person represents one vote, which comes back to one vote per association. If it's not adopted by 2/3, it returns to the Members' Assembly.

CADEUL

During ongoing conversations, people have expectations and then the day after, it's different, so that's problematic. It creates tensions and strategic actions when that shouldn't be the issue. At CADEUL, when we see that there is a divergence of opinion, we take it back to the decision making body. Having the same voting method in assembly and committee, so that large associations don't have the onus of repeating a vote in a superior body.

AECSP

If we want the same voting method, I would have a lot of trouble allowing non-member associations to participate, with voting rights or without, which is difficult for the number of members. If faculty

associations have the right to attend, then we need to account for them (right to vote, vote for campus association, etc.) so as to avoid some associations having a double representation during a vote.

AEP

My question is for CADEUL: how do you obtain consensus? If you decide by a vote, isn't that the same? What do you consider to be the threshold after which there is a consensus?

CADEUL

Take for example a document. There is a meeting of member associations, the addition of ideas is done by consensus. As soon as it isn't supported by everybody or a threshold of 80%, then we make that decisions in the Members' Assembly instead.

FAÉCUM

It would be like yesterday. Everything that seems consensual, we bring it as a proposal and we adopt it. Whatever seems to cause friction with an association, we bring it back for a subsequent discussion. Is that it, CADEUL?

CADEUL

Yes.

AEP

Every new order of business is then automatically devolved to the Members' Assembly?

CADEUL

If it's totally new, there are ways of handling it. It opens the door to operating in a different manner. Depending on what is being worked on, since it's informal, it's easier.

REMDUS

Everything that is consensual is brought back to the Members' Assembly?

AEP

I know that there are minoritarian groups in CADEUL. How do they find their space in this system?

CADEUL

It works well. When we're in a decision-making context, it's different. We don't lose time due to the work done in these bodies.

PGSS

If there are associations that disagree, they're not pushed aside and if they have strong arguments those are brought back to the Members' Assembly. It seems a rather ideal procedure, it's more constructive and less combative.

AEP

Are the mandates that come to the committees large or restrained? Is there a pre-selection at the level of the Members' Assembly?

CADEUL

60% of the points are predefined. 20-30% is member associations sharing their challenges.

Indicative vote

Lots of green, some yellow

AECSP

Good idea. But I think that, for graduate studies, we should operate in a different manner. I have the impression that the Graduate Students Committee has a different scope. And for good reason: different budget, different representation. Yes for a working committee, but not for all committees.

PGSS

We need to avoid there being distinct winner and loser groups. If you force people to find a consensus, you need to ensure that you convince those who disagree or find a compromise.

AéESG

There is a distinction in the categories of committees. Some can recommend positions to the Members' Assembly and others are exclusively mandated by the Assembly. The committees that are mandate should operate through consensus, but those that can make recommendations should not.

AEP

We believe that the Members' Assembly shouldn't meet too often. If everything is going to come back to the Member' Assembly, it'll have to meet more often.

AEENAP

I don't understand how there could be consensus. We'd vote with the cards as we are now? That would serve to take the pulse of what each group wants? I'm afraid that it'll be less efficient. If we leave space for consensus, we leave more space for the autonomy of groups. We're risking a problem of conflict between two groups with different ideas. I'd put in a voting system to simplify things. Decisions made should remain within an overarching logic of general policies.

PGSS

I don't think I understand the concerns. The beauty of the system is that there aren't any winners. We know there is a large consensus. The CNCS can mandate the Members' Assembly. I don't understand the problem.

AEENAP

As I see it, consensus renders debate less clear and less fluid. If we don't agree, we send it back to the Members' Assembly, but that's only once every three months. The Members' Assembly should only serve to provide orientations. A voting method ensures that things are ready for the Members' Assembly.

AEP

If we operate using cards, we know if we disagree.

REMDUS

I find that the meetings of the Members' Assembly are rather far apart. If we're to function by consensus and report back to the Members' Assembly, that gives time to convince the other associations. Smaller associations see the decisions to be made coming up. It's interesting in how it stretches things out in time. It would be worth it to try.

PGSS

If there's a minority at the beginning, they can convince the others and they can defeat recommendations. A necessary flexibility in the operations of the institution.

AECSP

It isn't clearly defined for us, what a consensus is. We should clarify the definition of consensus.

AEENAP

I just understood consensus. Voting with the cards. No red cards equals consensus. I apologize for my earlier intervention. But now, I don't understand AECSP's comment. Why wouldn't you want this process?

Indicative vote:

All green, except one yellow.

AECSP

We're not opposed to consensus, we're even in favour. But we want clarifications on its formulation.

AEENAP

I imagine that we'll get there. One problem: in a committee, let's say that you contest a decision, at the Members' Assembly, an association that has more members can defeat your proposal. We need to manage that issue. At the Members' Assembly, there will be friction if the large associations defeat proposals.

FAECUM

Operating by consensus resolves that problem. In a committee, you aren't told that everything is fine, but not in the decision-making body.

Working Groups Coordinator

For the voting methods, we seem to be in agreement for consensus in the different bodies other than CNS and the regional affairs committee. We could do a go-around to see where everyone stands on the voting method to be used in the Members' Assembly.

AéESG

In our memoir, we were vague. What we're holding on to is a double majority and semi-proportionality. The details of those two principles, we'll leave open to discussion.

AEP

We feel similarly to AéESG. We need to choose a minimum threshold to veto or impose a decision. I don't think we'll have the time to debate numbers today. We propose that it be worked on in a smaller group.

FEUS

We don't have a clear position on the subject. We put regional associations forward. One association, one vote is a system that we find interesting.

CADEUL

For us, a double majority with semi-proportionality is the option to be considered.

REMDUS

In the interest of reaching a consensus, our internal bodies have rejected one association, one vote and pure semi-proportionality. The double majority is therefore interesting. We still need to discuss the details. A method of calculating votes that takes into account the exit or entrance of student associations is also interesting. Having said that, we're open to discussions.

FAÉCUM

Our internal bodies spoke to us about double majority. The unbalanced weight of large associations at the FEUQ was a problem. Some type of tiered system is possible. I think we need to come to an agreement on principles today. Once they're adopted, we'll talk details.

CSU

We're in favour of a one association, one vote system.

AGEUQAT:

We privilege one association, one vote. In the fall, we'll need unity in the student movement. If we decide to go with one association, one vote, we'll bring back the associations who've left the table.

SSMU

We're in favour of one association, one vote. We also have a problem with the double majority system. It gives a larger power to large associations.

PGSS

Double-majority. What we are proposing in our memoir is to have quartiles to protect small associations from the large ones. It is the best possible system. For me, a stable association is one that has a system that's able to adjust to the departure of student associations.

AECSP

We are the smallest association around the table, so we'd favour one association, one vote. However, to ensure greater stability, we are in favour of a double majority. It would be recalculated each semester. But it must include a protection from the large associations. The number of students must be weighted over 3 years, so as to protect from fluctuations year to year. A formula established over time.

AEETS

No clear positions. One association, one vote. Even though the *arctan* formula proposed by AECSP is very beautiful.

AEENAP

We'd prefer not to intervene.

CADEUL

For us, we find the double majority system to be interesting. Each decision then represents sufficient individual members.

REMDUS

We're conscious that we're working with associations, but it's the members that are being represented. We'd be prepared to move towards a double majority.

AÉCSP

What I propose is that we come to an agreement on the bases (formula rather than table), then we form a committee that sets the base and details. It would elaborate the formula. We request an indicative vote on the double majority.

PGSS

I don't see the system of one association, one vote as equitable since large associations represent more people. If the small associations always defeat the large ones, there would be more members affected. With the double majority, the small are protected. The system forces all of the associations to seek a consensus. We still need to define whether it works through set tiers or a mathematical curve. I therefore preclude the idea of one association, one vote. That would render the structure of the national association unstable.

Indicative vote on the double majority.

One red

Three yellow

One double (yellow green)

SSMU

I don't mean to sound rude... but I really don't see the point. It's the same vote. It would be a different situation if the votes were to be divided, but it's not. I really do have issues with this system of double majority.

CSU

I agree with SSMU. It has a history at the FEUQ where double majority was applied and it was not working well... Moving forward on the subject, who has a mandate for a certain voting system?

CADEUL

Our mandate is complex. We're being careful not to cleave the discussion. We don't want to be closed to the ideas being put forward. We don't want any associations to walk away from the table. On the other hand, it's clear for us that one association, one vote is not practicable.

FAÉCUM

Our mandate is clear: double majority. First majority: one association, one vote. Second majority: proportional. The important thing is to take into account the fears of the associations. One of the fears for smaller associations is to be buried under the larger. Another fear is that a large number of students should find themselves unrepresented in the positions. The double majority solves that. We risk creating a system that won't persist if we adopt a system that doesn't resolve both of those cases. It's complicated if we launch a national campaign and it isn't all of the students who agree with the position.

REMDUS

If the consensus around the table is for the double majority, I can return to my association with that result. The small associations are important, and there aren't that many here. Historically, there weren't a lot there. I understand, but I persist in believing that the solution is in a double majority.

AEP

We understand that we don't want 20% of the members deciding for every association in Quebec. According to the associations around the table, a veto would not be favourable for including everyone. We have two realities around the table, democracy for associations and for the number of students. The conjunction of the two is a double-majority. We don't want associations to feel powerless.

PGSS

FEUQ didn't have the double majority system. We don't want to recreate a disproportional weight in votation. We don't want a few associations to decide for a majority of students in Quebec. There's no way that can work. I respect that some associations have more members than we do and I think that the double majority gives all the power that smaller associations need to be well represented in the national association ...

AéESG

We don't have an exact mandate, but we are in favour of a double majority since, as a medium sized association, our members wouldn't understand why we were in favour of one association, one vote. A double majority equitably distributes democratic weight.

AEENAP

I think that double majority is the best option.

Indicative vote on a double majority:

Some yellow

One red-yellow

Many green

FAÉCUM

I'd like to return to what we were saying earlier about the two primary fears in relation to a voting system, being that the small associations fear being silenced by the large ones and that the large associations fear a minority passing positions that don't represent the majority of members. It's important to take both fears into account. A double majority responds to both those fears, while medium sized associations are unaffected by either voting method. Since a majority of associations are medium sized, there is a possibility of converging.

REMDUS

I wanted to respond to what PGSS said. Formally, at the FEUQ, no it wasn't a double majority. But in reality that dynamic existed. There were frustrations related to this type of vote, but on two different days. I'm trying to understand how the simulator works. The effective veto of those associations who've signed, the large associations can block a decision. Two small associations can't block. The other reality can't be accepted. It will be necessary for the tiers to reflect the needs of the small and medium associations.

AECSP

In response to REMDUS, we want a committee to do the math so as to find a formula that will include the desired variables. The worst thing we could do would be to institute a table dividing the votes. It would be an actual portrait of members, unable to take into account eventual changes. If the number of associations changes, we would no longer be representative. We therefore need to establish criteria and one or more formula such that we can adapt the number of votes, so as not to re-debate it and to avoid providing too easy a veto to some associations.

CSU

I think we should do an indicative vote about having a measure to a couple of big associations to veto propositions.

Indicative vote on the need to limit large associations from obtaining an effective veto:

One yellow

Lots of green

REMDUS

One association, one vote doesn't give a veto to small associations. They would need to form a coalition to have one. One association, one vote doesn't give to the small but rather takes from the large. It is important that the second majority be semi-proportional and not purely proportional. Since everything changes with the number of associations, the system must adjust to fluctuations.

Indicative vote on rejecting pure proportionality

Lots of green

One red-yellow

AEP

In a semi-proportional system, it must be flattened sufficiently such that the large associations can't monopolize the democratic weight.

FAÉCUM

For the red card, as I said earlier, it's my mandate. We've spoken about the fear of having two associations block things. Effectively, in a double majority with pure proportionality, CADEUL and FAECUM would hold 53% of the votes in the second round.

CADEUL

We are in favour of semi-proportionality in a double majority, but each decision must be supported by a third of the members. For us, that's a necessary threshold for saying that something is minimally representative.

AECSP

I'd like to return to what I said at the start. I think we need to focus on fundamental principles and find what's acceptable for all in terms of the voting system's criteria. For us, the important variables are that the calculation for the number of members of each association be based on an average over several semesters (to flatten out variations), that it be recalculated each semester, and that we limit the possibility of a veto by large associations.

Indicative vote on the possibility of basing the calculation of members on an average taken over several semesters:

Lots of green and yellow

Indicative vote to set a minimum on the number of associations needed for an effective veto:

Lots of green

One yellow

Indicative vote on the second majority using a semi-proportional distribution of votes

Lots of green

1 yellow green

1 yellow

FAÉCUM

It's important to us that at least 1/3 of the individual members be represented by all political positions adopted at the national association. If we have, on the one hand, 50% of the associations who support a proposal while, on the other, those associations represent minimally a third of the individual members, that ensures a critical mass in favour of the position and its formal adoption. It's important because, otherwise, we could adopt positions that don't represent the will of the members, which we then have to defend, and that could greatly affect mobilization.

Indicative vote for having a minimum of 1/3 of the individual members represented for any position to be valid:

Lots of green

Some yellow

One red

AEP

Doesn't this come back to fixing tiers? I thought we were going to mandate a committee to calculate all that.

Assembly Chair

I see it rather as establishing a criteria.

AEP

The point of having a formula, rather than a table, is to avoid having to argue these points in the future. Whether an association quits or joins, a calculation should automatically be made to adjust.

Indicative vote on the idea of having the semi-proportional method of voting framed by an adjustable mathematical formula:

All green

AEP

Why 1/3 of members to pass a position? And 2/3 to block?

CADEUL

To return to the idea of the 1/3, we hope that the committee will respect this idea, regardless of the tier.

Working Groups Coordinator

Do you wish to put forward other principles or criteria to guide the Formula Committee, before we got to lunch? We need to accelerate things a bit so as to have enough time to finish this point, hold the Directors' Assembly, and allow our colleagues who have a lot of travel ahead to leave on time.

REMDUS

I'd ask that we explore the 1/3 for the one association, one vote portion as well.

Indicative vote on exploring the 1/3 for the "one association, one vote" portion:

Lots of green

Some yellow

1 red

AEENAP

I gave a red earlier because I want to see, before voting on it, how the tiers will be made. I just voted with a red card again because for me, the basis for democracy is 50% +1, so I don't see why we would want to increase that to 2/3.

Break at 12:35 p.m.

Resumption at 1:21 p.m.

Reading of the recommendations arising from the plenary discussion.

REMDUS

I request that recommendation 5 be removed from the omnibus.

AECSP

We want to remove 3, 4, and 7.

REMDUS proposes:

20150530 AM 08

That the omnibus recommendations be adopted.

AéESG seconds.

No request to vote

Adopted unanimously

AECSP

On the subject of recommendation 3, when we calculate the number of members, we would like to add that we use the same principle for calculating the fees owed as well.

Working Groups Coordinator

The issue of the fee hasn't been touched on this weekend, but we can add it if you wish. Normally, the fees paid by the associations are fixed at an amount X, multiplied by the total number of individual members.

REMDUS

The subject of fees will be dealt with in August, so I think we should leave this proposal as it is for the moment.

AECSP proposes:

20150530 AM 09

That recommendation 3 be adopted.

REMDUS seconds.

No request to vote.

Adopted unanimously.

REMDUS

In recommendation 5, its written "15%", but I think it would be better to put "X%" so as to avoid unneeded constraints.

AEETS

We also have a problem with this formulation of the recommendation since, as written, we're saying 15%. So, technically, 14% or 16% are excluded. It boxes us in too much.

AECSP

To precise, I had said that it was open to discussion, not that the committee should examine it. We're opposed to lowering the threshold below 15%. We understand that it's vague, we could change the percentage given so that it not be below that.

AEP

The exact percentage should be discussed later.

REMDUS

I don't want to defeat the proposal or the principle, I just want to replace "15" with "X".

REMDUS proposes the following amendment:

That "15" be replaced by "X" in recommendation 5.

AEP seconds.

No request to vote

Adopted unanimously

REMDUS proposes:

20150530 AM 10

That recommendation 5 be adopted as amended.

AEP seconds.

No request to vote.

Adopted unanimously.

AECSP proposes the following amendment:

That "which takes into account" be replaced by "at each retraction or addition of a student association"

AEETS seconds.

AEENAP

It's written "in calculating the number of members", but we could also consider the contribution; more weight for higher contributions for example?

Assembly Chair

That would denature the proposal too much to be accomplished amicably.

No request to vote

Adopted unanimously

AECSP

Do we need to create the committee, since we just adopted the last recommendation?

Working Groups Coordinator

We can do that informally. Lift your placard if you want to propose someone for the committee. We were thinking of having a member of the Coordinating Committee present at the meetings, if that's acceptable.

REMDUS

I propose Nicolas Bérubé.

AEP

I propose Guillaume Fortin.

AECSP

Bruno Belzile

AEETS

I have someone in mind, but they're not present at this time.

Working Groups Coordinator

Don't hesitate to let us know once you've contacted them.

CADEUL

Can we contact the Coordinating Committee if we want to propose someone later on?

Working Groups Coordinator

Yes. We can give you a few days to evaluate it.

AGEUQAT

We would add Mathieu Lefebvre.

Working Groups Coordinator

We'll call you this week to see how you felt about this weekend and to go over how it went. I wanted to also thank you for your constructive participation. Each association put the interests of students before their own. Let's be conscious of the colossal task we placed on ourselves. We accomplished it well.

REMDUS

I would like to congratulate the Coordinating Committee. We wanted 5 people, we have 3. You are at the height of our expectations. Thank you for the work you've accomplished.

FAECUM

Thank you to AEP and AECSP for hosting us.

FAÉCUM proposes:

20150530 AM 11

That the meeting be adjourned.

PGSS seconds.

No request to vote.

Adopted unanimously.

Projet