

## **OPSEU Local 653 – General Membership Meeting**

### **College Employment Stability Committee (CESC) Annual Report**

#### **Program Viability Framework**

We had two CESC meetings in April this year with one more follow-up meeting to come. These meetings are around the College's "Program Viability Framework" which they have introduced as a systematic process for evaluating on an annual basis the viability of every program offered at the College.

Various factors are considered in this process such as enrollment, program costs, projected trends etc.. Most of these factors are in some way related to revenues or expenses, and there is no doubt that the emphasis is on the 'bottom line'. Programs that are running in deficit will be unlikely to get a positive rating in this process.

Once the numbers are crunched, each program is given a 'viability score'. This score is used to rank the program in one of three 'zones', and programs that are outside the top zone are on notice and have started towards the path to suspension or cancellation.

We have concerns with the approach here that seems to require that each program be profitable rather than looking at the College as a whole, i.e. stronger programs carrying some weaker ones.

The union members of the CESC committee will meet and put together our formal recommendations around this process and request another meeting to present them. We also plan to ask for the CESC to meet more regularly and to play a role in ensuring the proper maintenance of the Partial Load Registry next year.

#### **Pures College Agreement**

The agreement with Pures College has been granted a second life by the Ford government and will continue for the foreseeable future. Our concerns about this agreement remain the same as they were: Agreements with private colleges undermine the quality and reputation of public College diplomas and threaten employment stability in our bargaining unit. Now that we have seen more international students at our own campuses, it raises even more concerns about the quality of the grads that are leaving Pures. This will be an area of focus for this committee next year. We will demand details such as attrition rates, qualifications of professors, number of contact hours per professor, examples of student work etc... I would be very surprised if the students at Pures are held to the same standards as those at Northern. To be continued...

Respectfully Submitted,

Neal McNair  
CESC co-Chair  
OPSEU Local 653