



# Memorandum

**Date:** June 3, 2020

**To:** CAUT Council

**From:** David Robinson, CAUT Executive Director

**Re:** **Business arising from the 87<sup>th</sup> Council meeting**

The CAUT office has completed all actions required by member resolutions passed at the 87<sup>th</sup> Council, with the following exceptions:

## **RESOLUTION 15 c) FREE EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS**

The resolution presented by OPSEU/Alberta calls upon CAUT to develop a Bulletin and draft model language on freedom of expression that addresses the issue of institutional security concerns and costs and that ensures that access to free expression on college and university campuses does not depend on one's ability to pay.

The matter was referred to the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee and discussed at the Committee's last meeting. A working group is developing a draft for consideration at the Committee's August meeting.

## **RESOLUTION 15 e) DEFENCE FUND**

The motion by Laval/St. Thomas requested the Executive Director conduct an investigation on the respective powers of the governing bodies of the CAUT and the CAUT Defence Fund, and report at an upcoming Council meeting on the connections between these two governing bodies.

Following November Council, I searched the CAUT archives to gather relevant information about the founding of the CAUT Defence Fund and its relationship with CAUT over the years. I subsequently contacted external legal counsel to review the governance structures of both CAUT and the CAUT Defence Fund. Mark Blumberg, of Blumberg Segal LLP, conducted the legal review and shared a draft with me in February. He was scheduled to attend April Council to offer his preliminary observations and recommendations with delegates. As Council was postponed due to the pandemic, we are now exploring a virtual meeting for him to present his opinion.

I also met with the CAUT Defence Fund Planning and Policy Committee in February. I shared my initial findings about the history and evolution of the Fund with the Committee. We discussed various options about the governing structures and alignment between CAUT and the Fund. Consistent with the spirit of the Laval/St. Thomas resolution, I will be finalizing a report for Council delegates that I hope to distribute over the summer so that the matter may be taken up at the next meeting of Council.

## **RESOLUTION 15 f) UNIVERSITY COUNSELLING CENTRES**

The resolution by Memorial/Dalhousie asks CAUT to initiate a survey of University Counselling Centres across the country to determine past and current issues facing Counselling Faculty Members, including but not limited to academic freedom concerns and workload issues.



This matter has been taken up by CAUT research staff and is in progress.