

**MOTION from Senator Stevens:**

**Academic Consideration for students participating in the November 5, 2009,  
Campaign for a Poverty Free Ontario**

WHEREAS the Society of Graduate and Professional Students has planned activities for the week of November 5, 2009 to raise public awareness about the role of post-secondary education, rising tuition, national student debt, and to pressure governments to reinvest in affordable, high-quality public services, which includes post-secondary education;

WHEREAS the Campaign for a Poverty Free Ontario initiative falls within Rule 17 of Senate's mandate to "determine all matters of an academic character which affects the University as a whole, and to be concerned with all matters which affect the welfare of the University";

WHEREAS the Campaign affects the welfare of the University and all of its stakeholders and has no affiliation to a political party;

WHEREAS Senate approved motions supporting academic consideration for students participating in events of a similar nature and intent in 1998, 2001, 2007, and 2008;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Senate encourage academic units and professors to be flexible in making alternate arrangements, including re-scheduling examinations and the deadlines for submission of assignments, and provide reasonable access to materials covered during lectures for students who are absent from classes on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 so that they may freely participate in the Day of Action with no fear of academic repercussions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Senate acknowledges the usefulness of a strong student effort to increase financial support for public services and post-secondary education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Senate endorses lawful activities to increase awareness of the need for Canada and Ontario to reinvest in affordable, high-quality public education and public services generally.

For Senate's Information: *from Senate Minutes, September 25, 2008*

V MOTIONS (Appendix L, page 51)

1. **Academic Consideration ~~Amnesty~~ for Students Participating in the November 5, 2008 Day of Action**  
Moved by Senator J. Welsh  
seconded by Senator P. Dacin

**WHEREAS the Society of Graduate and Professional Students has planned activities for the week of November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to raise public awareness about the role of post-secondary education and to pressure governments to reinvest in affordable, high-quality public education;**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Senate encourage academic units and professors to be flexible in making alternate arrangements, including re-scheduling examinations and the deadlines for submission of assignments, and provide reasonable access to materials covered during lectures for students who are absent from classes on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 so that they may freely participate in the Day of Action with no fear of academic repercussions;**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Senate acknowledges the usefulness of a strong student effort to increase financial support for post-secondary education;**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Senate endorses lawful activities to increase awareness of the need for Canada and Ontario to reinvest in affordable, high-quality public education at the post-secondary level.**

**Carried 08-52**

Senator J. Welsh reported that Senate supported an identical motion in 2006 and a similar motion in 2001.

Principal Williams noted that students requesting accommodation are required to approach their instructors well in advance of the event. He also stated that faculty members should not feel pressured into granting exemptions but rather they are being asked to be flexible in making alternate arrangements.

In response to a question from Senator MacLean, it was clarified that instructors were not being asked to alter course requirements. Students requesting accommodation would be expected to meet the same course criteria as other students in the class.

Senator Walker questioned the use of the word amnesty in the title of the Motion which was asking instructors to be flexible. The mover and seconder agreed with a suggestion from Senator Laker that a more appropriate title for the Motion would be "Academic **Consideration**" as opposed to "Academic ~~Amnesty~~".