

JACFA NEWS

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Assurance Qualité Ensures Nothing Jean-Marc Beausoleil and Luba Serge

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More than 20 unions in different colleges have refused to participate in the new system of “assurance qualité” put forward by the Commission d’Évaluation de l’Enseignement Collégial (CEEC). This text tries to explain what assurance qualité is and why we should resist it.

The CEEC conception of assurance qualité takes the form of an audit. The objective is to evaluate the efficiency of the system of assurance qualité of the college, this means not to evaluate teaching or pedagogy but mechanisms already in place to ensure their quality. That is why FNEEQ speaks of méta-évaluation, since it is the evaluations of how one evaluates.

The process is systematic and cyclic, to be repeated every five years in every college. Inspired by ISO 9001, the process of assurance qualité will impose industrial normalization to teaching, and ultimately, we believe, undermine academic values.

MÉTA-EVALUATION

This méta-évaluation was put in place in fall 2013 and the first four colleges to submit to this process were Grasset, Sainte-Foy, Shawinigan and Marie-Victorin.

The first step is for the administration of the college to prepare and submit a report to the CEEC that explains how the college ensures assurance qualité. The CEEC will then grade the college based upon the report: very satisfactory, satisfactory, mildly satisfactory or not satisfactory. Not only is this “mark” made public but it is also intended for use in promoting the college in an increasingly competitive CÉGEP market.

The CEEC will also recommend how to improve or maintain the grade based on practices in other colleges, resulting in pedagogical policies determined not by the teachers nor by the CÉGEPs, but by the CEEC. This contravenes the collective agreement’s stipulation that departments and

teachers have this responsibility (4-1.02, b).

According to FNEEQ, some of the CEEC’s recommendations to date include giving the administration minutes and an attendance list of departmental meetings and providing detailed course plans that specify the pedagogical tools being used every hour throughout the semester.

MERCHANTS IN THE TEMPLE

Our concern is that adherence to the CEEC’s process of assurance qualité will result in the loss of professional autonomy for teachers, unnecessary competition between CÉGEPs, and ultimately opening the door to each CÉGEP giving out its own diploma, thereby dismantling the “réseau des collèges.” It is another step in the application of private sector management practices to public education: the merchant vision of education.

FNEEQ is asking that the CEEC be eliminated. In its place, FNEEQ proposes an organization responsible for coordination and promotion of the whole college network. This would be more efficient and cost-effective than the current situation, where some colleges have up to four employees responsible for marketing and student recruitment. It would also create a spirit of collegiality and collaboration ■

**JACFA General
Assembly and
Xmas Lunch:
December 17.**



JACFA marks its presence at October 31 anti-austerity march in Montreal