

# 'Isms on student agenda

## 'Anti-oppression' training, bureaucracy holds up clubs

If students at the University of Guelph wants to start, say, a chess club, they first have to take "anti-oppression" training that includes learning about ableism, saneism, classism and other ideas.

This is just one of the strange facts I discovered about how politically correct and bureaucratic the student experience in Canada has become after learning about the hurdles faced by student



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group Generation Screwed.

Boasting 27 chapters in schools across the country, Generation Screwed is

the youth wing of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. Although it's taken some perseverance to even get some of these clubs formed.

On Wednesday, their Brock University club had to cancel a speech by CTF Ontario rep Christine Van Geyn for the most frustrating of bureaucratic reasons. New clubs need to attend training that's available twice a year, which a Generation Screwed student leader did a couple weeks ago. However the administration still hadn't approved



VAN GEYN  
Cancelled

The Brock student union's clubs bylaw document includes 126 rules. It's mind-boggling that the student experience

has gotten so bogged down with this nonsense.

"The administrators hadn't checked out the box saying they had done their training so they can't use the electronic booking system," Van Geyn told me. "What they should do is just let people come and speak. It's a university where discourse happens. It shouldn't be a herculean task to rent a room."

It's a great example of how bureaucracies can stifle the exchange of ideas," says Aaron Gunn, CTF's executive director for Generation Screwed.

"When I went to university anyone who paid their student dues could book a space." Gunn explains other schools have held up the group's applications for months and even lost applications multiple times.

As for the poor students at Guelph who just want to form a club and book some space, a training document found online instructs them

to "come up with a list of ways that you will apply your new anti-oppression training to the work that you currently do on campus."

Van Geyn's actually scheduled to speak at Generation Screwed's Guelph club this Thursday. Will her talk live up to this, er, lofty edict? Perhaps. After all, Generation Screwed is all about looking at the massive debt that gets passed on to future generations ... that's a kind of oppression, right?

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