



7th International Higher
Education and Research
Conference

VANCOUVER
10-12 September 2010

Draft Agenda

Day One: Friday, 10 September 2010

8:00 – 9:00	REGISTRATION
9:00 – 9:30	Opening: Welcoming remarks
09:30– 10:45	Plenary Session 1 <i>The View from Here: The State of the Profession 2010</i> As the joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Recommendations Concerning the Status of Teachers (CEART) has concluded, higher education and research staff globally are confronting a series of unprecedented challenges. Attacks on academic freedom and labour rights , erosion in salaries and terms and conditions of employment , weakening of tenure and job security including a rising number of fixed-term contracts , privatization and commercialization , and the undermining of collegial governance structures are just some of the major pressures facing the profession. Many of these pressures have accelerated in the wake of the global economic recession. This interactive session will explore the state of the profession internationally with panellists being asked to focus on what higher education and research unions are doing and can do through collective bargaining, lobbying, and public campaigns to defend the profession.
10:45 – 11:00	BREAK
11:00 – 12:30	Plenary Session 2 <i>Update on EI activities since the 6th International Higher Education and Research Conference</i>
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK <i>Hosted by the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of British Columbia</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Working Groups 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defending academic freedom and collegial governance• Promoting the employment rights and conditions of fixed-term staff• Campaigning against commercialization and privatization• Responding to the economic crisis



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15:30 – 15:50

BREAK

15:50 – 17:30

Plenary Session 3

Regionalization and Globalization of Higher Education and Research: Developing an effective union response

The regionalization and globalization of higher education and research, increasingly regulated through international trade agreements such as the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services, continues to raise significant challenges for higher education and research staff. The development of branch campuses, franchising relationships, cross-border e-learning, and the exploitation of the international student "market" are leading to the commercialization of higher education globally. Many institutions and countries are aggressively marketing higher education in China and India in particular. What are the implications of these developments for higher education and research unions? How can we develop effective strategies to counter the negative effects of marketization in the sector while promoting internationalization?

FREE EVENING

Day Two: Saturday, 11 September 2010

9:00 – 10:30

Plenary Session 4

Development Cooperation: Strengthening Higher Education and Research Unions

How can higher education and research affiliates assist one another in building union capacity? What role can EI and its affiliates play in strengthening higher education and research unions in developing countries? What are the most useful ways that affiliates can establish partnerships, support, and exchanges of information and best practices? How can we encourage more higher education and research unions, particularly in the global south, to affiliate to EI?

10:30 – 11:00

BREAK

11:00 – 12:30

Concurrent Session I

Equity in Higher Education: Building Inclusive Institutions and Unions

Despite some progress in recent years, higher education institutions, systems and unions in many parts of the world remain far from fully inclusive. How can we make our unions more representative? What role can higher education and



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research unions play in promoting equity within the profession and in our institutions more broadly? What barriers to equity remain? What effective practices through collective bargaining, internal union policies, and campaigns have been developed by affiliates?

Concurrent Session II

Global Copyright Agreements: What's at stake for higher education and research staff?

Educators and their unions have an important role to play in the growing international debate about copyright – a public policy issue that has moved from obscurity to centre stage in countries around the world. With a number of new treaties, including the current talks on the controversial Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), the trend has been to ratchet up the protections of owners of copyright. This reflects an emerging struggle over access to and use of information. As a community, higher education and research staff are uniquely placed to press for a balanced approach to global copyright rules, rules that do not over- or under-protect copyrighted material.

12:30 – 14:00

LUNCH BREAK

Hosted by the Canadian Association of University Teachers

14:00 – 15:30

Plenary Session 5

Rankings and Learning Outcomes: The Politics of Quality and Accountability

From national and global rankings of institutions, to the assessment of research impact and student learning outcomes, the focus on quality and accountability in higher education has become a worldwide phenomenon. What are the underlying forces responsible for this trend? What are the impacts of different quality assessments and accountability mechanisms on staff? How should higher education and research unions respond to ensure that our institutions are sufficiently transparent and accountable while maintaining respect for professional autonomy and academic freedom?

15:30 – 15:50

BREAK

15:50 – 17:30

Working Groups 2

- Promoting equity and inclusivity
- Responding to the regionalization and globalization of higher education and research
- Campaigning for fair copyright
- Confronting the accountability agenda



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19:00 **OFFICIAL DINNER**
Location: TBA

Day Three: Sunday, 12 September 2010

9:00 – 10:30	Plenary Session 6 <i>Reports and recommendations from workshops</i>
10:30 – 10:50	BREAK
10:50 – 12:20	Plenary Session 7 <i>Conference report and planning for the EI World Congress, 2011</i>
12:20 – 12:30	Closing



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