

**University of Windsor
Senate**

5.6.3a: Academic Policy Committee Comments on the Proposed 2014-2015 Proposed Tuition and Ancillary Fees

Item for: **Information**

Forwarded by: **Academic Policy Committee**

A presentation on the proposed tuition fees was provided by Sandra Aversa, Vice-President, Planning and Administration, as set out in the 2014/15 Tuition and Compulsory Ancillary Fee Proposal.

Members were reminded that the Ministry introduced a new four-year tuition fee framework beginning in fiscal year 2013-2014, which limits tuition increases to an overall total of 3% across all undergraduate and graduate domestic programs. It is up to each individual university to determine how to raise their tuition fees within the confines of the Ministry's framework. Graphs show that to not apply the allowable increases could result in a gap in fees between our University and others, with variances noted historically, resulting in an inability to catch up. International student fees continue to be deregulated, although it is the University's intention to establish some standardized fees for international programs.

Members were reminded that the goal is to devise a tuition fee schedule that maximizes the University's ability to produce a balanced budget for 2014-15 within the rules, regulations and principles set out by the government and in the Board-approved tuition policy, while ensuring that the University is competitive and can attract more top quality undergraduate and graduate students.

Compulsory ancillary fees for 2014-15 are based on the CPI index of 0.9%. There is also a new fee for the pilot training component of the aeronautics program stream, administered by the University on behalf of the provider.

The University is proceeding cautiously with international tuition fee increases in light of the new international recruitment strategy (engaging many agents in recruiting international students to the University). An analysis of the success of the strategy and feedback from recruitment agents will be key to determining future international tuition fees.

COMMENTS/FEEDBACK

Many faculty members believe that high international graduate tuition fees are impacting their ability to grow their research programs, because they are unable to cover students' costs with their grants, which impacts their ability to attract international students. From the graphs shown, it appears that other "research intensive" universities have adopted a strategy of setting relatively low international graduate fees, perhaps for this reason. A similar issue arises with domestic graduate fees. In the case of the latter, it was noted that the University is attempting to increase its competitiveness by proposing a 0% increase for the second consecutive year. In response to the questions raised about tuition fee increases for international students and their impact on faculty members' ability to build research programs, it was noted that universities do not receive government grants for international students and that our international fees are competitive.

As tuition fees continue to rise, the number of students and families (domestic and international) that can afford a Canadian University education decreases. APC understands the need for these tuition fee increases during these economic times, but also notes that the social cost of these increases needs to be considered. In future reports, APC would like to hear more about what is being done to offset tuition costs for students (*i.e.*, fundraising, bursaries, *etc.*) In response to this comment about the social impact of increasing fees, it was noted that 30% of revenue from tuition fees is allocated to scholarship and bursaries, as regulated. In addition to this, members were informed that attention is being given to increasing fundraising efforts and other methods of attracting donations to establish and grow scholarships and bursaries. APC was reminded, however, that the government's decision to discontinue the donor-matching program has resulted in a decrease in donations and, consequently, a decrease in money available for bursaries.