

Message from the President re: Financial Planning

Sent to students, faculty, and staff on November 14, 2024

Dear University of Windsor Community,

I am writing to provide an update on the University's current budget situation, particularly for those who were unable to attend the Nov. 13 Financial Planning Town Hall.

Canada is facing major social and economic challenges that affect nearly every sector. In higher education, geopolitical tensions and new federal restrictions have significantly reduced international student enrolment nationwide.

At the University of Windsor, this enrolment decline – mostly in Course-Based Masters programs that generate nearly 29% of our operating revenue – is projected to result in a \$10 million tuition shortfall for 2024/2025, with further impacts expected in fiscal 2025/2026.

Our other operating budget revenue sources— domestic tuition and government grants— are unlikely to improve in the next few years. Domestic tuition has been frozen since 2019, and provincial funding has remained stagnant for more than a decade.

At the same time, expenses for personnel and operations are rising, with 78% of our budget allocated to salaries and benefits—mostly under collective agreements up for renewal next year. Inflation is also driving up costs for IT, cybersecurity, subscriptions, maintenance, and utilities. We also have an existing \$2.8 million base budget deficit.

As a result, early projections indicate a revenue-expenditure gap of at least \$30 million in the operating budget for fiscal 2025/2026.

I know that this news is concerning. It is crucial that we act now, even amid uncertainties, to safeguard the University's future. It will require both immediate action and careful, long-term planning.

We will reduce personnel costs and improve efficiency, striving to minimize the impact while preserving the student experience. We will focus on programs and initiatives that align with our academic mission, with faculties, programs, and services being adjusted to meet student and industry demand. Our land and asset management strategies will maximize space and alternative revenue sources, while meeting housing demands.

I recognize the disruption that change and uncertainty can bring, but this University community is resilient. We have a strong history of uniting during challenging times. I am confident that, together, we will build a strong and financially sustainable future for the University of Windsor.

A [video recording](#) of the Nov. 13 Financial Planning Town Hall presentation is now available on the [Finance website](#), along with answers to frequently asked questions and a portal for submitting budget suggestions and ideas.

I sincerely appreciate your ongoing dedication and support.

Sincerely,
Rob



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