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| **Policy Statement I – Tuition** |
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| **Adopted**: March 5, 2013  MOTION [20055GA] – Expired March 5, 2016  MOTION [21369GA] - Expires January 19, 2020 |
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| **Motion from the 6th Meeting of the 2016-17 General Assembly, January 19, 2017:**  MSC: M. Many Grey Horses/J. Diakow  BIMT the General Assembly approve "Policy Statement I – Tuition" as presented by the Advocacy Advisory Committee effective immediately with an expiry date of January 19, 2020.  Carried |

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has the duty to fund a post-secondary education system that has the capacity for all eligible individuals to participate given the increased importance of an educated populace and the growing demands of an emerging knowledge economy;

WHEREAS current tuition levels and costs of obtaining a post-secondary education create barriers for some and can decrease the ability of students to afford a post-secondary education;

WHEREAS the Students' Union believes that tuition should not be a primary source of funding; and,

WHEREAS tuition should ultimately be lower.

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT:***

The Students' Union advocate for a tuition policy that:

1. demands long-term, sustainable base operating funding for our university that will be protected from negative changes in our government's financial situation;
2. protects tuition from increasing beyond inflation due to fluctuations in base funding grants to the university from the government;
3. ensures predictable tuition and fees;
4. has as its primary indicator of tuition levels the ability of individual students to pay without having to resort to loans;
5. recognizes that tuition is only one of the costs when pursuing a post-secondary education;
6. recognizes that the main determining factor of affordability in our post-secondary education system is the overall cost to the individual, not the availability of financing options; and,
7. ensures that no student will ever be denied the opportunity to pursue a post-secondary education because of their inability to pay.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT***

The Students' Union advocate to the Government of Alberta to legislate a policy on tuition fees that:

* 1. provides strict instructions to the institutions’ ability to set tuition, including annual and ultimate limits on the amount of tuition fees that can be levied on students;
  2. places the annual and ultimate limits on the amount of tuition fees within legislation rather than regulation;
  3. requires post-secondary institutions to provide to the Board of Governors of the institution, the Auditor General of Alberta, and to the minister responsible for advanced education a detailed public plan on how additional tuition revenues will be spent;
  4. eliminates differential tuition for international students at Alberta’s universities;
  5. places limits and policy regarding mandatory non-instructional fees within regulation, and
  6. states all new mandatory non-instructional fees and increases to existing fees beyond CPI be subject to a successful student referendum.

The Students' Union will advocate to the federal government to ensure adequate funding in order to alleviate the financial pressures of tuition rates being experienced by post-secondary education students.

The Students' Union will not support the University of Lethbridge Board of Governors increasing tuition above the Consumer Price Index.