

Policy Statement I – Tuition

Adopted: March 5, 2013

Expiry Date: March 5, 2016

Motion from the 10th Meeting of the 2012-13 General Assembly:

MOTION [20055GA] MSC: A. Escher / S. Glydon

BIMT the General Assembly approve "Policy Statement I – Tuition" as presented by the Advocacy Advisory Committee effective immediately with an expiry date of March 5, 2016

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:

- a) demands long-term, sustainable base operating funding for our university that will be protected from negative changes in our government's financial situation;
- b) protects tuition from increasing beyond inflation due to fluctuations in base funding grants to the university from the government;
- c) ensures predictable tuition and fees;
- d) has as its primary indicator of tuition levels the ability of individual students to pay without having to resort to loans;
- e) recognizes that tuition is only one of the costs when pursuing a post-secondary education;
- f) 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,
- g) ensures that no student will ever be denied the opportunity to pursue a post-secondary education because of their inability to pay.

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

- a) 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;
- b) places the annual and ultimate limits on the amount of tuition fees within legislation rather than regulation; and,

- c) 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.

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.