

## Policy Statement VIII – University Sustainability

**Adopted:** February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Expires:** February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### **Background**

Many of the day-to-day activities carried out by post-secondary institutions, such as the University of Lethbridge, are thought to have little to do with the quality of the post-secondary experience of students on campus; however, this stretches the truth. The student experience at the University of Lethbridge is connected to the quality of actions carried out by the institution. For this policy, the University of Lethbridge Students' Union has highlighted that financial, social, and environmental action, directly relate to the sustainability of the University of Lethbridge and impact student experience.

WHEREAS there are improvements which can be made within the financial management of the University of Lethbridge;

WHEREAS students are stakeholders within the University of Lethbridge, providing approximately 25% of the overall operating revenue during the 2015-2016 Academic Year<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS the University of Lethbridge students should not be responsible for compensating cuts to the University's budget;

WHEREAS the University of Lethbridge has made steps towards the implementations of environmentally sustainable options and practices on campus, such as a robust recycling and composting program;

WHEREAS there are improvements that can be made in accessibility to parking on campus;

WHEREAS students should be at the forefront of decisions regarding parking and transportation on campus;

WHEREAS the promotion of a vibrant campus community at the University of Lethbridge is extremely beneficial to the mental health and well-being of all students on campus; and,

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<sup>1</sup> Students contributed to: student tuition and fees (\$34,975,145), special programs (\$2,810,983), and incidental fees (\$7,288,874); this being a grand total of \$46,068,002 during the 2015-2016 Academic Year. The total operating revenue generated by the University of Lethbridge during the 2015 – 2016 Academic Year was \$182,778,084. ("Planning & Reporting." Budget | University of Lethbridge. Accessed January 2018. <https://www.uleth.ca/planning-and-reporting/budget>).

WHEREAS the provision of a safe and inclusive community that is well supported by services and programming is an integral part of a positive student experience.

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT:*

The University of Lethbridge Students' Union advocate for a policy that:

- a) Ensures financially sustainable decisions are made by the University of Lethbridge that provide an affordable, high quality, and fulfilling academic experience for all undergraduate students.
- b) Ensures that student fee increases are not implemented to supplement shortfalls associated with the University of Lethbridge's operations.
- c) Ensures that there are proactive measures pursued by the University of Lethbridge to improve accessibility to parking on campus and transportation to campus.
- d) Continues to see a progressive push towards greater environmental sustainability by the University of Lethbridge.
- e) Ensures services and programming on campus that aid to the positive well-being of students are continued and are kept accessible.