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<b>SUBJECT</b>	Tuition – Bachelor of Sustainability, UBC Okanagan
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	Finance Committee
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	June 2, 2020
<b>SESSION CLASSIFICATION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
<b>REQUEST</b>	Decision requested: approval of proposed resolution  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, in accordance with the authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves tuition for the Bachelor of Sustainability degree at UBC Okanagan (to commence September 2021) aligned with approved Bachelor of Science undergraduate tuition fees, which for 2020-2021 are \$183.56 per credit for domestic students and \$1,358.84 for international students, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.
<b>LEAD EXECUTIVE</b>	Ananya Mukherjee Reed, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	Dr. Gino DiLabio, Dean pro tem and Associate Professor Irving K. Barber School of Arts & Science, UBC Okanagan

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The subject matter of this submission has not previously been considered by the Finance Committee.

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education for sustainable development has been supported and promoted over the last decades by global frameworks such as the United Nations' Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014) and the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (post-2014) led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In 2015, world leaders adopted the 17 UNESCO identified sustainable development goals with the hope of achieving a better and more sustainable future for all. Additionally, sustainability is identified as a strategic direction for UBC.

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences has offered a first-year course in sustainability (SUST 100) since 2005 which has attracted between 140 and 220 students during the winter session. Student feedback shows that many of those taking the course would continue in a sustainability program, if it existed. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences is proposing to offer a four-year, 123-credit (minimum) Bachelor of Sustainability undergraduate program. The overall objective of the program is to provide students with appropriate breadth and rigour to critically assess and propose solutions to contemporary sustainability challenges, such as climate challenges, environmental degradation, pollution, energy use, policy, human well-being, and social and economic inequality in British Columbia and the world.

While most postsecondary institutions offer courses that have sustainability learning outcomes and several institutions offer environmental studies degrees, the proposed program will be the only dedicated degree in sustainability in Canada. The degree is a truly integrative program of study that transcends the traditional disciplinary barriers of courses that sit in the arts or the sciences. It will also be a direct entry program creating a cohort that will benefit from community building and networking opportunities, an essential skill for solving sustainability problems. Additionally, students enrolled in the Bachelor of Sustainability program will participate in experiential learning activities that are unique to UBCO's campus.

Tuition fees for the program are set in alignment with the current tuition for the Bachelor of Science for both domestic and international fees. Student consultation on tuition was done with the UBC Okanagan Students' Union and the Earth and Environmental Studies Course Union. There was an in-person meeting with the executives of both groups on November 19, 2019 and December 7, 2019, respectively.

Both the executive of the University of British Columbia Okanagan Students' Union, and the executive of the Earth and Environmental Studies Course Union responded positively to the proposal and were satisfied with the responses they received during the in person meetings. They both agreed to support the program proposal.

The degree is in great alignment with multiple strategies from UBC's Strategic Plan:

- Strategy 2: Inspiring Spaces – students will access spaces, indoor and outdoor, that provide forums for interdisciplinary interaction and interaction with the broader community.
- Strategy 3: Thriving Communities – students will utilize the campus as a living laboratory that will address social and environmental issues beyond the campus.
- Strategy 12: Program Redesign – program focuses on learning outcomes aligned to broader competencies, such as critical thinking and problem solving.
- Strategy 14: Interdisciplinary Education – core courses embed interdisciplinarity and students have opportunity to work with professors and students across disciplines to integrate concepts and tackle new, larger issues, and problems

The degree will be implemented in the fall of 2021, upon approval of Board of Governors and Ministry.

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## SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

1. Tuition and Fee Assessment Details
2. Student Tuition Consultation Report

## Appendix 1 – Program Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

**Program:** Bachelor of Sustainability

**Start Date of the Program:** 2021 Winter Session

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per credit – Note 1	\$183.56	\$1,358.84
Application Fees (Undergraduate) – Note 2	\$71.75	\$120.75
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit – Note 3	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
Other Faculty and Course Fees	N/A	N/A

Note 1 – Listed tuition fees are the standard rates approved for 2020/21, aligned with the Bachelor of Science. Proposed tuition will be subject to increases as approved by the Board.

Note 2 – This is the current fee for the 2021W application cycle and is subject to increases as approved by the Board.

Note 3 – The non-refundable acceptance deposit will be applied towards the first tuition installment.

## Appendix 2 – Student Tuition Consultation Report

The University would like to gather your comments on the tuition for a proposed Bachelor of Sustainability (B.Sust). Below you will find:

- instructions to provide feedback
- an overview of the program
- the proposed tuition

### Instructions

We are seeking comments from individual students and student organisations on campus. Please review and distribute the information below as you deem appropriate.

All comments should be sent to: [ian.cull@ubc.ca](mailto:ian.cull@ubc.ca) by December 1, 2019.

If you have any questions about this consultation process, please contact the AVP Students Office: [ian.cull@ubc.ca](mailto:ian.cull@ubc.ca).

### Confidentiality

Comments will be collected by the Office of the Associate Vice-President (Students), and only analysts within that office will know the identity of individual students submitting comments. At no time will anyone outside of the Office of the Associate Vice-President (Students) know the identity of individual students who submit comments to this consultation. Your comments will only be used for the purposes of the tuition consultation. Comments from individual students will be stripped of any identifying information to ensure confidentiality, but otherwise will be provided to the responsible Faculties and the Board of Governors verbatim.

Comments received from student organizations will be reported as coming from those organizations, and provided to the responsible faculty and the Board of Governors as received.

### Program Overview

In its desire to embrace innovation and support a sustainable world, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus (UBCO) is proposing to offer a distinct undergraduate degree program in sustainability that encompasses the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The proposed Bachelor of Sustainability (B.Sust.) will provide an interdisciplinary approach, with an in depth focus on select concentrations, allowing students to achieve the necessary breadth to become well versed in sustainability matters on a local to global scale. While most post-secondary institutions offer courses that have sustainability learning outcomes and several institutions offer environmental studies degrees, the proposed program will be the only dedicated degree in sustainability in Canada. The Bachelor of Sustainability program requires students to complete a minimum of 123 credits:

- 39 credits of integrative core courses in sustainability
- A minimum of 42 additional credits (at least 21 of these credits completed at the upper-level) from one on the following concentrations:
  - Environmental Analytics
  - Environmental Conservation and Management
  - Environmental Humanities

- Green Chemistry
- Remaining credits will be from a broad range of electives recommended for the Bachelor of Sustainability program. Overall, students must complete 48 credits in upper-level courses to fulfill degree requirements.

### **Tuition**

The tuition for the proposed B.Sust.Program is in accordance with the current tuition for the Bachelors of Science; \$179.97/credit for domestic students and \$1,306.58/credit for international student. Tuition is reviewed annually by the Board of Governors. In recent years, tuition increases have been 2% for continuing domestic students and between 2% and 5% for continuing international students.

## **STUDENT TUITION CONSULTATION REPORT**

The Associate Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences conducted a student consultation regarding the tuition proposal for the proposed Bachelor of Sustainability (B.Sust).

### **Student Representative Bodies Invited to the Consultation**

University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan and the Earth and Environmental Studies Course Union.

### **Mode of Consultation**

The consultation consisted of a face-to-face meeting with the Students' Union Executive. The Students Union was invited to the consultation through email, and asked to distribute the invitation to their constituents as they felt appropriate. We met with the Students Union on November 19, 2019. At this meeting all of the required Program information was shared.

I met with the Executive of Earth and Environmental Studies Course Union on December 7, 2019.

**Basis of Consultation:** The consultation was based on a tuition proposal and rationale document created by the Faculty.

**Summary of Student Feedback:** Submissions were requested from the University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan (UBCSUO). They were requested to have this to Ian Cull, AVPS on or before December 1, 2019.

The Executive of the University of British Columbia Students Union Okanagan responded positively to the proposal. They had questions about how revenues would be utilized and about the cohort size and its relationship to other programs. They also inquired about how resources and infrastructure allocated to the proposed program might be shared with other students in other programs. At the end of our meeting, they were satisfied with the responses they received. At the end of our meeting, they were satisfied with the responses they received. And agreed that they were supportive of the proposal.

The Executive of Earth and Environmental Studies Course Union responded positively to the proposal. They had questions about how revenues would be utilized and about the cohort size and its relationship to other programs. They also inquired about how resources and infrastructure allocated to the proposed program might be shared with other students in other programs. At the end of our meeting, they were satisfied with the responses they received. And agreed that they were supportive of the proposal.

The UBCSUO President indicated that he felt he could write a letter of support and provide it by the time required.

He was asked to provide written feedback and a letter of support to Ian Cull, Associate Vice President Students, before December 1, 2019.

Additionally they asked we consult with the Earth and Environmental Studies Course Union. Ian Cull has requested a meeting and has followed up on that request.

To date the UBCSUO have not written to express their views in the proposal above, however the required consultation has taken place. We still hope to hear from them.

The Executive of Earth and Environmental Studies Course Union indicated that could write a letter of support and provide it as soon as possible. An email expressing his support for the proposed program was received on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.