



September 20th, 2022  
UBC Board of Governors

***Re: Tuition Engagement Approach FY 2023-2024***

Dear members of the UBC Board of Governors,

This submission is being made on behalf of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC Vancouver in regards to the proposed Tuition Engagement Approach for the fiscal year 2023-2024. The briefing outlines the administration's plan for engaging with elected student representatives on tuition increases and the University's budget. This is a vital process in ensuring student needs are represented in the budgeting process, and in fulfilling the University's obligations in Policy LR4 and the recommendations in the Student Affordability Taskforce (SATF) Report.

Specifically, one of the recommendations in the SATF report is to “deepen engagement with elected student leaders through the university's budget process to understand priorities, financial restraints and trade-offs and engage in in-depth discussions regarding tuition”. Accordingly, one of the goals for the Tuition Engagement Approach FY 2024-2024 is to increase the number of budget information sessions with the student unions (AMS, SUO, and GSS). While we are grateful that this is a priority for the University, we would like to comment that thus far we have not seen any substantial changes in the way University leadership has engaged with the student unions.

For example, to date there have been three meetings between the student unions and the administration; two on the student tuition consultation survey, and one Budget 101 session at the retreat hosted by the VP Students. The Budget 101 session was a high-level overview, one that has been held with previous student leadership. As the expansion of these budget information sessions is a priority for this year, we hope to see further engagement with the student unions going forward, with specific numbers on proposed tuition increases, Faculty budget proposals, and the overall consolidated budget proposal. With tuition engagement launching in October, this needs to happen in a timely manner so that elected student leadership can provide informed feedback in line with the Tuition Engagement Schedule. This also fulfils the requirement under Policy LR4 that the student leadership is given sufficient time to provide feedback on tuition.

We appreciate the administration's efforts thus far in engaging with student leadership and the Board of Governors for their consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

**Dana Turdy**  
VP Academic and University Affairs  
Alma Mater Society

**Eshana Bhangu**  
President  
Alma Mater Society