



<b>SUBJECT</b>	Tuition Engagement Approach FY 2025-2026
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	Learning & Research Committee
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	March 12, 2024
<b>SESSION CLASSIFICATION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
<b>REQUEST</b>	For information only - No action requested
<b>LEAD EXECUTIVE</b>	Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan Frank Laezza, Vice-President Finance & Operations Dale Mullings, Associate Vice-President Students, UBC Okanagan Samantha Reid, Executive Director, Office of the Vice-President Students David Shorthouse, Executive Director, Academic Initiatives Office of PVPA Helen Yung, Assistant Comptroller

**PRIOR SUBMISSIONS**

This briefing was submitted most recently to the Board of Governors in [September 2023](#).

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In recent years, the Tuition Consultation process has expanded beyond the original intent of the policy. The [Tuition Consultation Policy \(LR4\)](#) specifically requires the “Responsible Executive” to “consult with the Elected Student Leadership.” Elected student leaders include the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of the University of British Columbia, the Graduate Student Society (GSS) of the University of British Columbia, and the University of British Columbia Student’s Union Okanagan (SUO). Engagements with “Elected Student Leadership” has increased significantly since 2020. Throughout the policy, “Elected Student Leadership” is the primary focus of the consultation. However, in recent years, the Tuition Consultation process has involved a survey of the entire student body, that is, more than 70,000 students. The current consultation process followed by sub-inflationary increases only results in frustration among the general student body. The policy permits the “Responsible Executive” to consult with the AMS, GSS, SUO and guided by best practices.

Therefore, the Administration wishes to return to the letter of the Tuition Consultation policy. Surveying the entire student body does not add information to the Tuition Consultation process. We wish to focus on engagement with “Elected Student Leadership” and informing the student body via a comprehensive website where all tuition information will be available.

**The FY25-26 Tuition Engagement Process**

Under the guidelines of [Policy LR4](#), the Vancouver and Okanagan Provosts and Vice-Presidents Academic and Vice-President Students will engage with the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of the University of British Columbia, the Graduate Student Society (GSS) of the University of British Columbia, and the University of British Columbia Student’s Union Okanagan (SUO) regarding proposed tuition increases for FY25-26. The purpose of the engagement is to increase understanding regarding the University’s budget and budget process; to better understand the priorities of the AMS, SUO, and GSS as linked to the budget; to discuss proposed general tuition and fee increases for 2025-2026; and to enhance understanding of our students' financial sources and needs.

The process will follow the Tuition policy, specifically:

## 2. Constituents

**2.2** For Tuition and Mandatory Fees that apply across multiple Faculties, the Responsible Executive will consult with the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia, the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver, and the University of British Columbia Students' Union Okanagan, as appropriate and in addition may consult more broadly with general student body. Consultation Process for General Increases to Tuition and Mandatory Fees that Apply Across Multiple Faculties

## 5. Consultation Process for General Increase to Tuition and Mandatory Fees that Apply Across Multiple Faculties

**5.1.** The Responsible Executive will establish a schedule of formal meetings and mechanisms for the consultation process(es) that will take into consideration comments from the Elected Student Leadership and will be guided by best practices.

As such, in alignment with Policy LR4 the Tuition engagement approach for FY 2025-2026 will focus on continued enhanced engagement with student leaders building upon the established engagement topics including: Budget 101, Understanding Administrative Operations, Focus on Student Priorities, Consultation on the proposed tuition and mandatory fees, discussion of the university budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This will support:

- Compliance with the tuition consultation policy
- To solicit greater input from elected student leaders about student financial priorities
- To understand the AMS/GSS/SUO priorities and alignment with university priorities and budget

### The FY 2025-2026 Tuition Engagement Schedule

#### *August to January*

- The Administration will facilitate a budget orientation, and successive meetings with elected student leaders focused on understanding the university budget, process, and tuition consultation.

#### *October to November*

- The Vice President Students (VPS) in collaboration with the Vice President Finance and Operations (VPFO), and the Provosts and Vice President Academics (PVPAs) will launch the tuition consultation process with the elected student leaders.
- The formal tuition consultation process with elected student leaders will begin October 7<sup>th</sup> and end November 8<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the consultation process VPS will receive written comments and feedback from the elected student leaders. Additionally, VPS, VPFO, PVPAs will meet with the elected student leaders to discuss feedback received.

#### *December*

- Provide the tuition consultation report at December Board Meeting.

#### *April*

- Update tuition fees on SICS/Workday Student and Academic Calendar.

## Understanding Student Financial Pressures and needs

The understanding of student financial pressures and needs remains a priority of the Administration and we will continue to gather this information from students through our established institutional surveys including: National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), Undergraduate Student Survey (UES), New to UBC (NUBC), Canadian Campus Wellbeing Survey (CCWS). This allows for a wholistic and comprehensive approach to engage with the student body to better understand their sense of financial pressures, financial sources, financial needs, and how students are engaging with various financial aid programs.

The approach for FY 2025-2026 follows the established processes and guidelines of Policy LR4 and supports a comprehensive and meaningful engagement through:

1. Supporting our elected student leaders to have an informed understanding of the University's budget and budget process
  2. Solicit greater input from elected student leaders about student financial priorities
  3. In-depth understanding of student priorities linked to budgetary needs
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