



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

PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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. 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.

Fostering a culture of meaningful engagement is important. Thus, a comprehensive tuition engagement process is required to understand where students prioritize investments in affordability and to gauge preferences for balancing tuition increases with maintaining services the university provides. Building upon last year's tuition engagement process, we are committed to student participation in decisions around how the university will focus its resources.

Tuition engagement for FY 2025-2026 will focus on:

1. Enhanced and focused engagement with student leaders
2. Student Tuition Engagement Survey

This approach follows the guidelines of Policy LR4:

1. 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. Better understanding of student needs, concerns, and priorities
4. In-depth understanding of student priorities linked to budgetary needs

PRESENTATION

1. UBC Tuition Engagement Approach FY 2025-2026

UBC Tuition Engagement Approach

FY 2025-2026

Ainsley Carry, Vice-President, Students



POLICY LR4: CONSULTATION WITH STUDENTS ABOUT TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES: PROCEDURES



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 the general student body.

5. Consultation Process for General Increases 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. The schedule will allow sufficient time for students and the Elected Student Leadership to respond in an informed manner

TUITION ENGAGEMENT APPROACH – *ENGAGEMENT WITH STUDENT LEADERSHIP*



Student Leadership Budget Engagement Sessions

- The Administration will continue work with the Student Leadership (AMS/GSS/SUO) to hold budget information sessions. The purpose of the sessions are:
 1. to increase our collective understanding of the scope of financial issues considered when constructing the university budget
 2. to comply with the tuition consultation policy
 3. to solicit input from elected student leaders about student financial priorities
 4. to understand AMS/GSS/SUO priorities and alignment with university priorities and budget

TUITION ENGAGEMENT APPROACH – *STUDENT ENGAGEMENT*



Student Survey

- The Offices of the Provosts, Vice President Students, and PAIR will issue the survey to students to ensure an ongoing focus on the key questions raised by students, and to better understand their sense of financial pressures, financial sources, financial needs, and how students are engaging with the various financial aid programs.
- This information will be informative in the development of the budget and priorities.

2025/26 TUITION ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE

August to October

- The Administration to hold a meetings with student leadership focused on the budget and priorities.
Sessions topics will include:
- Budget 101
 - Understanding Administrative operations
 - Understanding Academic Operations
 - Discussion of proposed tuition and mandatory fees and discussion of consultation process
 - Focus on Student Priorities
 - BoG tuition planning & engagement proposal prepared by VPS, PVPAs, VPFO

October to November

- VPS, VPFO, PVPAs launch tuition engagement and survey
- Oct 2**
Tuition Engagement Launch
- Ongoing**
Analysis of student feedback
Reminder email to students
- Nov 4**
Consultation Close
Final analysis of consultation and student feedback
Reporting on student engagement
- Discussions with student leadership on university budget process for the upcoming fiscal year and budget asks

November to December

- Week of November 4**
VPS discussion on student feedback with AMS, GSS, SUO to determine whether they wish to provide written comments for the BOG through the VP Students
- November 13**
Submission deadline for BoG documents prepared by PVPAs, VPFO, and VPS
- November 20/21**
BoG Committee meetings
- December 5**
BoG Meeting
- Board report posted to tuition engagement website
** At March BoG meeting SATF Annual Report will be presented*

April

- April – dates TBD**
Update tuition fees on SISC and Academic Calendar
- If approved:
- Tuition increase email to all students
 - Tuition adjustments for students registered in Summer Session courses
 - Update the tuition engagement website share outcomes broadly



TUITION ENGAGEMENT SURVEY QUESTIONS

Preamble

The University of British Columbia is proposing a modest tuition increase of _% for all domestic continuing undergraduate and graduate students, _% for all international continuing undergraduate and graduate students, and _% increase for all new international undergraduate and graduate students. A _% increase also applies to student fees. The administration seeks to keep tuition as low as possible while maintaining core operations and infrastructure, supporting and advancing the investments to maintain excellence in teaching and learning, and support services and programs. In addition, tuition revenues allow the university to make meaningful investments to advance the key priorities of UBC Strategic Plan. We would like to hear from you on your perspectives and what you view as key student priorities.



TUITION ENGAGEMENT SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. What is/are your primary funding sources for tuition and living costs?

- Parent(s) / Guardian(s)
- Personal savings
- Employment
- Government student loans
- Bank loans / Credit cards / Lines of credit
- Scholarships / Bursaries / Grants
- All other sources (friends, spouse/partner, sponsorship for international students, band funding for Indigenous students, etc.)



TUITION ENGAGEMENT SURVEY QUESTIONS

2. To what extent have you experienced financial stress due to any of the following reasons?

No financial stress, very little financial stress, some financial stress, quite a bit of financial stress, a great deal of financial stress

- Housing
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Caring for Dependents/family members
- Textbooks
- Food
- COVID-19
- Disability
- Other (please describe)



TUITION ENGAGEMENT SURVEY QUESTIONS

3. All of the following initiatives are important to UBC. Now after we've provided you with the budget information, how would you prioritize investments in these strategic initiatives? Please rank the following areas that you feel deserve the most attention (a rank of 1 indicates your highest priority, 7 your lowest priority).

- Academic Excellence
- Accessible Learning
- Combatting Climate Change
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Financial Support
- Formal and Informal Spaces on Campus
- Student Health and Wellbeing



TUITION ENGAGEMENT SURVEY QUESTIONS

4. Please rate your level of agreement with the proposed tuition increase, based on the rationale provided.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Unsure

TUITION ENGAGEMENT SURVEY QUESTIONS



4b. If you answered “Somewhat Agree, Agree, or Strongly Agree”, please tell us why you support the proposed tuition increase. Select all that apply or note any additional reasons in the space provided.

- Satisfied with the rationale and data provided here
- Satisfied with the level of investments in student support, academics, and in the student experience
- Other: _____

4c. [If Unsure] Please tell us why you are unsure about the proposed tuition increase.

- *Need more information than what is provided here*
- Other: _____

TUITION ENGAGEMENT SURVEY QUESTIONS



4d. If you answered “Strongly Disagree, Disagree, or Somewhat Disagree”, please tell us why you don’t support the proposed tuition increase. Select all that apply or note any additional reasons in the space provided.

- Fees and tuition already cost too much
- A higher tuition would worsen my current financial strain
- Too many recent increases in tuition
- If tuition is increased, I might not be able to finish studies at UBC
- Disagree with the difference in costs between domestic and international students
- The tuition increase would negatively impact UBC’s reputation
- Alternative tuition structure, sources of revenue, or cost reduction should be considered
- Not satisfied with the level of investments in student support, academics, and in the student experience
- Need more detailed rationale and data than provided here
- Limited financial aid and/or funding for students
- Other: _____

TUITION ENGAGEMENT SURVEY QUESTIONS



5a. Student Demographics

- Are you a:
 - Domestic Student
 - International Student

- Degree type:
 - Undergraduate
 - Undergraduate post-baccalaureate (e.g., JD, MD, DMD, BEd, PharmD)
 - Graduate - Master's (research-based with thesis)
 - Graduate - Master's (course-based, no thesis)
 - Graduate - Doctoral
 - Other

TUITION ENGAGEMENT SURVEY QUESTIONS



5a. Student Demographics continued

- Undergraduate students are you:
 - Attending full-time this term (taking 24+ credits, or in co-op, or in a JD/MD/DMD/PHARMD program)
 - Attending part-time this term

- Graduate Students are you:
 - Attending full-time this term (taking 2+ courses or working on your thesis/major project)
 - Attending part-time this term

TUITION ENGAGEMENT SURVEY QUESTIONS



5a. Student Demographics continued

- Campus
 - Vancouver
 - Okanagan
- Faculty drop-down list
 - List Vancouver Faculty
 - List Okanagan Faculty
- Where do you live?
 - UBC Residence
 - Other on-campus housing
 - Off campus housing
 - I have not yet secured housing for this academic year
 - Prefer not to answer



TUITION ENGAGEMENT SURVEY QUESTIONS

5a. Student Demographics continued [If Undergraduate Student]

- In what year of your program are you currently registered at UBC? This may not correspond directly to the number of years you've been attending UBC.
 - 1st year
 - 2nd year
 - 3rd year
 - 4th year
 - 5th year
 - Unsure/Not Applicable

TUITION ENGAGEMENT SURVEY QUESTIONS



6. Do you have any suggestions for improving this tuition engagement process?