



SUBJECT	Tuition Engagement Approach FY 2026-2027
SUBMITTED TO	Finance Committee
MEETING DATE	June 3, 2025
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	Dale Mullings, Associate Vice-President Students, UBC Okanagan Samantha Reid, Associate Vice-President Students Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan Frank Laezza, Vice-President Finance & Operations Helen Yung, Comptroller

PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

This briefing was submitted most recently to the Board of Governors in [March 2024](#).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2020, the Tuition Consultation process has expanded beyond the original intent of the policy. The [Tuition Consultation Policy \(LR4\)](#) 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 Students’ Union Okanagan (SUO). Engagement with “Elected Student Leadership” has increased since 2020 to better inform them about the University’s budget and tuition increases. The Tuition Consultation policy emphasizes engagement with “Elected Student Leadership” as the primary focus of the consultation. However, in recent years, the Tuition Consultation process has involved a survey of the entire student body, over 70,000 students. The current consultation process has led to frustration and mistrust among the general student body.

In [March 2024](#), the “Responsible Executive” appeared before the Board of Governors to share the administration’s interest in reforming the Tuition Consultation process and return to the letter of the Tuition Consultation policy and focusing the consultation to “Elected Student Leaders” unless requests for tuition increases exceeded the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI). [[See March 2024 BOG Submission](#).] This modification aligns with the existing policy. The “Responsible Executive” requested (1) focusing consultation on “Elected Student Leaders” and (2) suspending the surveying of over 70,000 students regarding a “Yes or No” question unless proposed increases exceeded HEPI. However, “Elected Student Leaders” expressed concerns about the scope of consultation before the requested change. Consequently, the administration agreed to delay any modifications to the FY2025/2026 Tuition Consultation process and engage in further discussions with elected student leaders.

The purpose of this submission is to update the Board of Governors on the results of consultations with “Elected Student Leaders” regarding changes in the Tuition Consultation process for FY 2026/2027.

Consultation with Elected Student Leaders

Beginning in March 2025, the “Responsible Executive” hosted three meetings with “Elected Student Leaders” from the AMS, SUO, and GSS. The meeting agendas included: (1) reviewing the history of Tuition Consultation and the policy, (2) “Elected Student Leader” and “Responsible Executive” interests in the Tuition Consultation process, and (3) opportunities to improve the process for students. A few important notes:

- This is not a request to change the Tuition Consultation Policy, but rather to adhere more closely to the existing policy by improving the process for consultation.
- The Tuition Consultation Policy provides guidelines regarding the approach and does not dictate the form of consultation. The policy allows for a simplified consultation when proposed increases are below the HEPI.
- Tuition increases for domestic students are set by the Provincial Government through the Tuition Limit Policy **capped** at 2%. Therefore, consultation on this amount is less relevant.
- Beginning in May 2025, incoming UBC students will receive a **multi-year tuition** agreement.
- The Tuition Consultation survey consists of two parts: **Financial Wellbeing** and the “**Yes/ No**” Question. The administration intends to continue the Financial Wellbeing survey and only use the “Yes/No” question if proposed increases exceed HEPI.

The Elected Student Leaders emphasized that the process could be improved by sharing more information about how tuition funds are used to benefit students. They also suggested ways to enhance the Financial Wellness portion of the survey to gather results that could improve the student experience. The SUO and GSS identified that the existing process is misleading and creates distrust because it asks students a “Yes/No” question regarding tuition increases, yet tuition rates continue to rise; they recommend no longer including the “Yes/No” question. The AMS expressed concerns that removing the “Yes/No” question may seem to diminish the student voice.

In conclusion, most of the Elected Student Leaders agreed with the administration’s request to modify the Tuition Consultation process by focusing on the Financial Wellness portion of the survey and removing the “Yes/No” question unless the proposed tuition increase exceeds the HEPI. The multi-year tuition agreement and 2% cap on domestic tuition help reduce uncertainty regarding potential tuition increases.