

Briefing Note

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SUBJECT: **Post-secondary affordability and accessibility**

Introduction

Recent events related to increases in international tuition and institutional housing fees at the University of British Columbia have put a spotlight on the need to address the issue of access and affordability of post-secondary education in British Columbia in general and at UBC Vancouver in particular. One of the major challenges linked to UBC's current budgetary situation is that although it has benefited from increasing tuition since 2002, provincial funding has been decreasing in real (and sometimes absolute) terms. But it is equally clear that a significant number of potential students may very well choose to attend other universities if tuition fees continue to increase significantly. This, in turn, could lead to drops in the diversity and even quality of the students at the university.

And so, students seem to be faced with two unpalatable choices: The quality of their education and academic experience must drop to cover budgetary shortfalls or the cost of their education must continue to rise well above the rate of inflation. The following note will present some research on the question of affordability and accessibility, and will hopefully suggest different avenues to better influence the university's administration and government in order to reduce the "sticker shock" caused by increasing tuition rates and improve public investments in post-secondary education.

Funding of post-secondary education

As hinted above, government funding for universities and colleges across Canada over the past two decades has not kept up with inflation, let alone GDP growth, placing important financial pressures on these institutions. In turn, successive public policies and decisions have led post-secondary institutions to rely far more heavily on tuition to cover their operating costs. When measured as a proportion of GDP, for instance, federal transfers have declined by 50% between 1992-93 and 2013-14. And public funding from all sources (provincial, federal and others) covers a smaller portion of university budgets, dropping from 83% in 1982 to just under 55% in

2012. In the same period, tuition has gone from covering 13.8% to 37.5% of university operating revenues.¹

The government of British Columbia's determination to control public spending, combined with a desire not to raise taxes and continued uncertain economic growth, makes it highly unlikely that the B.C. government's advanced education policies will change in the short term, limiting provincial funding increases for post-secondary institutions to below the rate of inflation. These assumptions are confirmed in the ministry of Advanced Education's (MAE) [2014/15 – 2016/17 Service Plan](#), which provides a breakdown of the global budgetary reality of the province's postsecondary institutions. The ministry's 2014-2017 resource summary indicates that in 2014-2015, higher education institutions should have received \$17.6 million less than in 2013-2014. Although this news is not good, the cuts projected for 2015-2016 are worse, at \$25 million. Both years add up to a 2.3% drop. For the first time in many years, however, the ministry projects that institutional budgets will be frozen, but not cut in 2016-2017. For their part, budgets for student support programs (loans and bursaries) and institutional executive support services will remain the same for the next three fiscal years.

These fiscal policies may very well lead post-secondary institutions, including UBC, to cut their budget (including support provided to student services), create new revenue streams or adopt a mix of the two approaches. Since tuition fees for non-domestic students or new professional programs are not captured by the provincial government's 2% annual increase cap, it is reasonable to expect that institutions will maximise the revenues they can obtain from these sources.

In fact, UBC's Board of Governors already approved a "10% increase in international undergraduate tuition effective May 1, 2015 for incoming international undergraduate students for the 2015-2016 academic year."² At the same time, several Faculties have proposed or are considering new professional programs with comparatively high tuition rates. At its February 2015 meeting, for example, the Board of Governors accepted the Doctor of Pharmacy Flexible Program, which will have a tuition program fee of \$39,600 and a \$1,000 annual practice fee.³ This makes it the most expensive program ever approved at UBC, outside of the Sauder

¹ Sources:

[Almanac of Post-Secondary Education 2014–2015](#). Ottawa: Canadian Association of University Teachers/Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université, 2014. Web (accessed: 2014-11-28).
Statistics Canada. [Table 477-0058 – Financial information of universities and degree-granting colleges, revenues by type of funds, annual \(thousands of dollars\)](#), CANSIM (database). Date modified: 2014-07-25. Web (accessed: 2014-11-27).

[Trends in Higher Education. Volume 3: Finance](#). Ottawa: Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada/Association des universités et collèges du Canada, 2007. Web (accessed: 2014-11-28).

² The University of British Columbia Board of Governors, [Meeting](#), December 2, 2014, p. 3 (website accessed June 29, 2015).

³ The University of British Columbia Board of Governors, [Meeting](#), February 12, 2015, p. 5 (website accessed June 29, 2015).

School's EMBA programs. On top of these tuition increases, UBC's administration has also announced a 20% hike to 8-month residence fees effective September 2015.⁴

In its 2015-2016 Operating Budget, UBC's administration has also clearly stated that it is looking to get increased revenues from all non-regulated tuition fees in the future and will be asking the government to relax or remove the tuition caps in place for all domestic programs.⁵ In its June 9 meeting, the Board of Governors went further by essentially stating that UBC must increase its tuition to match that of peer institutions: "The UBC Board of Governors requests that Administration set international student tuition fees at levels that reflect UBC's standing as a global university and the value of a UBC degree. While ensuring that the University maintains healthy enrolment of international students and attracts and retains a diverse range of students, the fees should support the mission and excellence of the University and should be comparable to those at peer institutions."⁶

Degrees of Uncertainty

Although *Degrees of Uncertainty: Navigating the Changing Terrain of University Finance* was published in September 2013, it remains the most recent comprehensive look at the cost of post-secondary tuition and fees in Canada. The publication's authors examine this question nationally, but also provide detailed statistics and analysis at the provincial level, including in British Columbia.⁷ Unfortunately, they do not look at the overall financial burden borne by students, leaving aside the substantial costs associated with books and educational materials, lodging, food and other expenses.

The document nevertheless provides useful information on the comparative cost of post-secondary tuition and fees between different provinces and over time. Among other things, we learn that between 1990-91 and 2012-13, the proportion of university funding derived directly from students rose from 22 to 34% at the national level and from 24 to 36% in British Columbia, with a parallel decrease in government funding, which dropped from 71 to 55% nationally and from 69 to 55% in British Columbia.⁸ These figures not only indicate that universities currently depend a great deal on tuition and compulsory fees for their budgets, but that the decrease in governmental funding was not entirely covered by the increase in student fees. This unfortunately increases the likelihood that institutions will want to raise these to remain in good financial health.

⁴ "[Facts about the housing fee increase](#)" (website accessed June 29, 2015).

⁵ [UBC 2015-2016 Operating Budget](#), updated April 7, 2015 and approved by the Board of Governors at its April 14, 2015 meeting (website accessed June 29, 2015). As the authors clearly state on page 8 of this document: "The long-term sustainability of the University **requires government flexibility (e.g. on domestic tuition and program fees) and further revenue diversification from international tuition, professional programs and innovation.**"

⁶ Board of Governors, [Agenda](#), item 1.5, June 9, 2015 meeting (website accessed July 7, 2015).

⁷ Erika Shaker and David Macdonald (with Nigel Wodrich), [Degrees of Uncertainty: Navigating the Changing Terrain of University Finance](#), Ottawa, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, September 2013.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

The report also shows that in current dollars, the average tuition and compulsory fees in Canada have gone from \$1,464 in 1990-91 to \$6,610 in 2013-14, a 352% increase (compared to the national inflation rate of 54% over the same period). By 2016-17, the authors project that tuition and fees should reach \$7,437 or 408% more.⁹

The authors have also developed a Cost of Learning Index (CLI), which compares the rate of increase of post-secondary tuition and fees to that of household incomes. Using these metrics, British Columbia's CLI has increased more slowly than the national average between 1990-91 and 2012-13. The numbers also show, however, that CLI has increased far more for low-income households than for median households. The following tables provide the details for the national and provincial CLI:¹⁰

Cost of Learning Index for Low Income Households

	1990-91	2012-13	Change
Canada	100	279	179%
British Columbia	123	246	100%

Cost of Learning Index for Median Households

	1990-91	2012-13	Change
Canada	100	196	96%
British Columbia	114	169	48%

Since the index's base year number does not evaluate if an education was affordable at that time, these numbers cannot be compared over time or between different jurisdictions. However, rates of change of the CLI are comparable and have been calculated for the table above. These numbers clearly indicate that in Canada and BC, the CLI has increased far more for low income households than for median households. In both cases, however, the rate of increase in B.C. is much lower than the national average. By using household income to determine the CLI, it appears that the authors assume that tuition is paid by students' parents. Although this is often true, it is clearly not always the case, as indicated by the AMS Academic Experience Survey.¹¹ The CLI may be improved by tracking the rate of growth of all forms of income used to pay for post-secondary education, including student salaries, loans and bursaries.

Comparative costs of post-secondary tuition in Canada

According to Statistics Canada,¹² the average cost of domestic undergraduate tuition in British Columbia in 2014-2015 places it among the bottom half of the country's provinces, although

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 21.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 22.

¹¹ AMS Student Society of UBC Vancouver, *2015 Academic Experience Survey*, Vancouver, July 2015, p. 85.

¹² Sources: [Undergraduate tuition fees for full time Canadian students, by discipline, by province \(Canada\)](#) and [Undergraduate tuition fees for full time Canadian students, by discipline, by province \(British Columbia\)](#), Statistics Canada (all webpages accessed November 11, 2014).

certain disciplines are not as competitive. Compared to the other provinces, B.C. comes in 4th in terms of overall affordability and in most academic programs, with the following exceptions:

- B.C. is 3rd most affordable in “Other health, parks, recreation and fitness” (out of 10 provinces), “Agriculture, natural resources and conservation” (out of 8), “Pharmacy” (out of 8) and “Architecture and related services” (out of 5);
- 7th in “Medicine” (out of 8 – only Ontario institutions charge more).

The overall increase in undergraduate tuition fees in British Columbia remained below inflation over the past four academic years, both in general and within individual academic programs.¹³ In this time period, the average cost of Canada’s fees far exceeded British Columbia’s: Nationally, tuition increased 15.8%, compared to 4% in the province.

Tuition costs at UBC¹⁴

The increase in tuition charged at UBC between 2010-11 and 2015-16 for select programs is summarized in the table below:

Program:	2010-11	2015-16	Increase
15 unit/30 credit (least expensive, first year)	\$4,518	\$4,988	10.4%
Law	\$10,135	\$11,677	15.2%
Dentistry/ Medicine	\$15,457	\$17,066	10.4%
Master of Management Dual Degree¹⁵	N/A	\$27,355	N/A

With the exception of law, these increases respected the 2% cap imposed by the provincial government on the yearly increase of post-secondary tuition. Although total annual program costs can vary significantly, UBC is charging \$166.27 per credit for most undergraduate programs in 2015-16. Exceptions are listed in the table on the following page, from least to most expensive:

Program	Details	Per-credit
Applied Science	Years 2 to 5	\$177.49
Education	All programs except NITEP	\$185.16
Media Studies	All years	\$221.27
Pharmacy	All years	\$245.14
Commerce	Years 2 to 4	\$246.36
International Economics	All years	\$266.00
Law (JD)	All years	\$364.91
Pharmacy (Entry-to-Practice Doctor)	All years	\$397.09

¹³ According to the Bank of Canada, inflation in this country rose by 7.6% between 2010 and 2014. Source: <http://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/related/inflation-calculator/> (website accessed November 11, 2014).

¹⁴ Source: [Vancouver Academic Calendar 2015/16](#) (website accessed June 22, 2015).

¹⁵ Although the Master of Management Dual Degree is a new program, it is nonetheless included in this comparative table so that updates to this document can track increases to the cost of this program.

Tuition and fees associated to the least expensive undergraduate program at UBC (Family Studies) amounts to \$5,919.27 for one academic year – it is one of eight programs that have managed to remain just below the \$6,000 mark at UBC. Interestingly, the most expensive undergraduate program listed below is technically at the master’s level (Master of Management Dual Degree), and costs \$28,064.23. This is almost \$10,000 more than the next two most expensive programs, Dentistry (DMD) and Medicine (MD).

The following table provides the total tuition and fees paid by domestic and international students for the first year of a full-time program, listed alphabetically by program:

Program	Credits	Domestic Students	International Students
Applied Science – Engineering	35	\$7,288.50	\$33,695.40
Architecture – Environmental Design	36	\$7,374.89	\$33,068.09
Arts	30	\$5,947.27	\$27,358.27
Commerce (Sauder School of Business)	30	\$9,081.24	\$31,269.54
Dental Hygiene	33	\$6,533.08	\$30,085.18
Dentistry (DMD)	N/A	\$18,112.09	N/A
Education – NITEP	30	\$5,929.27	\$27,340.27
Education – Twelve-month option	60	\$12,050.77	\$53,739.37
Family Studies	30	\$5,919.27	\$27,330.27
Fine Arts	30	\$5,947.27	\$27,358.27
Forestry – Forest Operations	35	\$6,800.62	\$31,780.12
Forestry – Forest Science	34	\$6,634.35	\$30,900.15
Forestry – Natural Resources Conservation	31	\$6,135.54	\$28,260.24
Forestry – Resources Management	30	\$5,969.27	\$27,380.27
Forestry – Wood Products Processing	32	\$6,301.81	\$29,140.21
International Economics	30	\$8,924.17	\$32,593.27
Kinesiology	30	\$5,949.27	\$27,360.27
Land & Food Systems – Applied Biology	32	\$6,281.81	\$29,120.21
Land & Food Systems – Food, Nutrition and Health	32	\$6,281.81	\$29,120.21
Land & Food Systems – Global Resource Systems	32	\$6,281.81	\$29,120.21
Law (JD)	32	\$12,756.29	\$26,438.21
Master of Management Dual Degree	N/A	\$28,064.23	\$40,304.23
Media Studies	30	\$7,597.27	\$29,338.27
Medical Laboratory Science	38	\$7,307.43	\$34,428.03
Medicine (MD)	N/A	\$18,055.09	N/A
Midwifery	35	\$6,750.62	\$31,730.12
Music	34	\$6,599.35	\$30,865.15
Nursing	48	\$8,940.63	\$43,198.23
Pharmacy	39	\$10,528.10	N/A
Science	30	\$5,944.17	\$27,355.17
Social Work	30	\$5,924.27	\$27,335.27

Comparing UBC with select American universities

How do these rates for international students compare to the costs associated to top private and public universities in the United States? The table on the following page lists the cost of tuition and fees in U.S. dollars for students at the top five private universities and top five public institutions, as listed in Times Higher Education's most recent rankings ([World University Rankings 2014-2015](#)). As indicated in the footnotes, state-funded institutions charge significantly less for state residents.

On the whole, these numbers demonstrate that, with one exception, the tuition charged by the top private American universities is more expensive for international students than UBC's. American public universities, however, are actually more competitive than this table might suggest, since they charge significantly less for state residents than non-domestic students, as indicated in the footnotes. And the University of Washington, which came in 26th place in this year's world rankings (compared to 32nd for UBC), is actually less expensive on average for out-of-state residents, even when taking into account the weakness of the Canadian dollar. For their part, Berkeley, UCLA and the University of Texas at Austin do not charge dramatically more than UBC for out of state residents.

World Ranking	Institution	Tuition and Fees*
1	California Technical Institute (Caltech)	\$48,217
2	Harvard University	\$47,668
4	Stanford University	\$46,320
6	Massachusetts Technical Institute (MIT)	\$46,704
7	Princeton University	\$45,350
8	University of California–Berkeley ¹⁶	\$38,390
12	University of California–Los Angeles (UCLA) ¹⁷	\$38,010
17	University of Michigan ¹⁸	\$41,906
26	University of Washington ¹⁹	\$22,343
28	University of Texas at Austin ²⁰	\$33,264

*In US dollars, for first year undergraduates who are out-of-state residents. Amounts include all required fees, as well as the health insurance fee, although the latter is waived if a student is already covered by another health plan. These numbers are for 2015-16 for the first five and last universities (1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 28) and 2014-15 for the rest (8, 12, 17 and 26). Information source may be found by clicking on the institution's name.

Most of the top private universities in the United States also offer some form of financial aid for students whose parents are in lower income brackets. In fact, Harvard has instituted a [Net Price Calculator](#) to give students a quick estimate of the cost of tuition. Using official U.S. Census

¹⁶ Residents of California pay significantly less: \$15,512. This state's population is nearly 39 million, making it the largest American state in that category and surpassing Canada's population by about 10%.

¹⁷ Residents of California pay \$15,132 to attend UCLA.

¹⁸ Residents of Michigan (with a population of 10 million) pay significantly less: \$13,486.

¹⁹ Residents of Washington (with a population of 7 million) pay significantly less: \$8,263.

²⁰ The cost of undergraduate traditional flat rate tuition varies by college and school for full-time students, from \$33,264 in Liberal Arts to \$38,126 in Business. Residents of Texas (population – 28 million) pay significantly less: from \$9,346 in Liberal Arts to \$10,738 in Business.

Bureau figures,²¹ the median household income in 2013 for people of differing racial groups or ethnicities is as follows:

Black	\$34,598
Hispanic	\$40,963
Non-Hispanic white	\$58,270
Asian	\$67,065

Inputting these numbers into the Harvard calculator provides the following results:

Income	Total Cost	Cost to Parents	Student Summer Work	Student Asset Contribution	Student Term-time Work
\$70,000	\$5,650	\$1,050	\$1,600	\$0	\$3,000
\$60,000	\$4,600	\$0	\$1,600	\$0	\$3,000
\$45,000	\$4,600	\$0	\$1,600	\$0	\$3,000
\$35,000	\$4,600	\$0	\$1,600	\$0	\$3,000

Although the numbers provided above are only approximate, they clearly indicate that a significant number of Americans would pay relatively little to study at Harvard.

Beyond tuition: Housing and other costs linked to post-secondary education

Any discussion on affordability of post-secondary education must go beyond tuition and fees and include other major costs such as housing, especially in a region as expensive as Metro Vancouver. This is of particular concern to students who do not live with their family and whose parents are unable or unwilling to support the entirety of their education. It should also be pointed out that in the same survey, a significant percentage of students (61%) indicated that there was an insufficient amount of affordable student housing on UBC's Vancouver campus (only 13% thought there was an adequate amount).²²

Using UBC's [Cost Calculator](#), it is possible to see just how expensive non-tuitions costs are for post-secondary students. This calculator indicates that students enrolled in one of the university's least expensive academic programs (Arts) will need about \$22,555 in 2015-16 to pay for all academic fees, textbooks, supplies and other basic living expenses (including rent and utilities on a shared two bedroom apartment, food and entertainment). Although this is quite high, costs in other programs can be significantly higher.

Using employment to pay for tuition, fees and living costs

Another way to look at the amount stated above is to calculate how many hours a student would have to work and how much they would have to earn to be able to pay for their

²¹ Carmen DeNavas-Walt and Bernadette D. Proctor, [Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013](#), U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, September 2014.

²² AMS Student Society of UBC Vancouver, [2015 Academic Experience Survey](#), Vancouver, July 2015, p. 94.

education. These calculations are made even more germane considering that the AMS's 2015 Academic Student Survey indicates that just over half (51%) of all respondents said that they had relied on employment income to support their studies.²³

It must be noted that the following calculations assume that students have no other sources of income, no expenses in the summer months and do not pay income taxes):

- At minimum wage (which will increase to \$10.45/hour in British Columbia on September 15, 2015), a student would have to work an average of 41.5 hours per week for the entire year.
- Assuming full-time employment only in the summer (40 hours/week for 17 weeks) and a more realistic part-time work schedule in the winter (averaging 10 hours/week over a 35 week period), a student would have to earn an average of \$21.90/hour.

Looking at average hourly wage rates in British Columbia for people in the 15 to 24 age bracket, as calculated by [Statistics Canada](#), provides much needed context for these numbers. In the summer months (May to August 2014), the average wage for **full-time** employees in all occupations ranged from \$15.97 to \$16.48 per hour. In the fall/winter/spring months (September to April), the average wage for **part-time** employees in all occupations ranged from \$12.50 to \$12.91. The wages for part-time "sales and service" jobs, which are most likely to be held by students during the academic term (especially in their first year), were even lower: \$11.36 to \$12.04 for part-time work, as calculated between September 2014 and April 2015.²⁴

Although these statistics do not indicate that it is impossible for post-secondary students to use employment income to fully support their studies at UBC, they do suggest that in most cases, it is unlikely that students can rely exclusively on their earned wages to pay for their education.

Diversity and increased tuition

A ground-breaking study presented in April 2015 seems to demonstrate that there is a correlation between increased tuition fees and decreased diversity on campuses in the United States.²⁵ The authors of the study point out that although actual post-secondary costs "are not necessarily synonymous with published tuition rates," these fees, "regardless of how they might be supplemented by colleges with institutional financial aid, may have an impact on enrollment patterns, especially for historically underrepresented populations."²⁶ Ultimately, the authors of this study conclude that their "findings suggest that tuition increases at public four-year institutions have negatively and significantly affect the racial/ethnic diversity of college

²³ AMS Student Society of UBC Vancouver, *2015 Academic Experience Survey*, Vancouver, July 2015, p. 85.

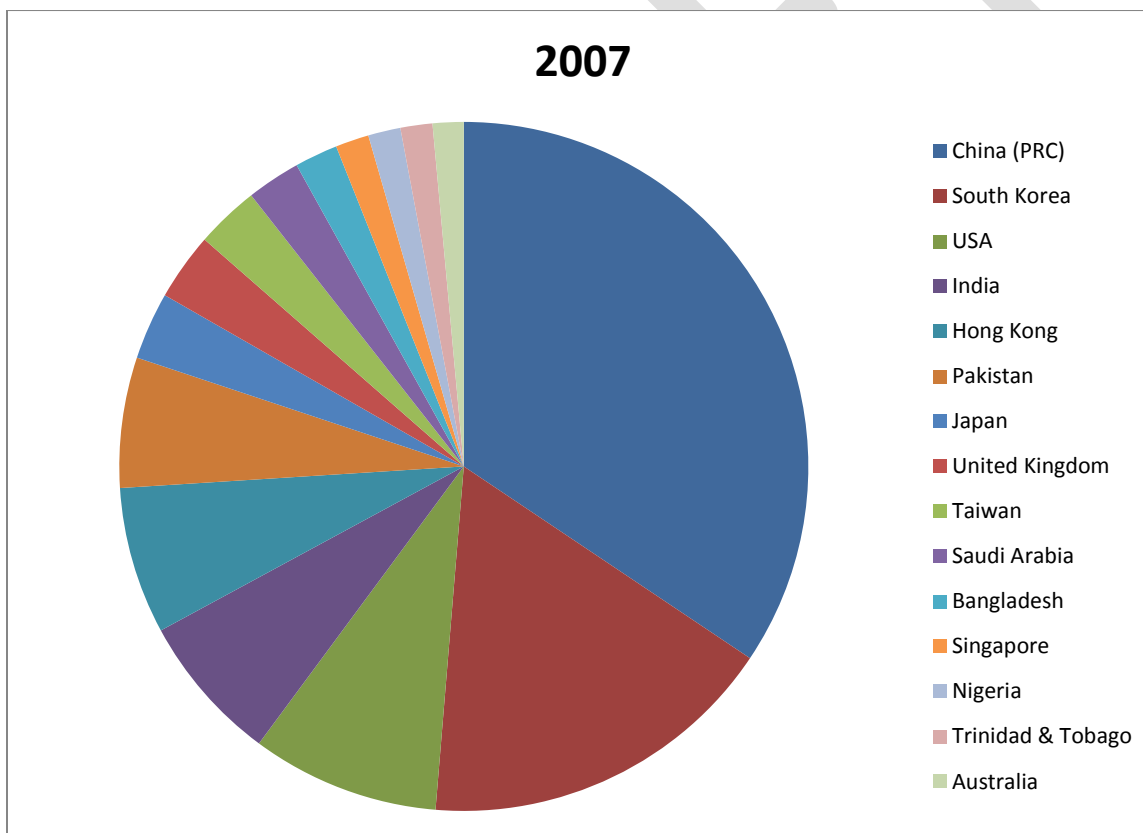
²⁴ Source: Statistics Canada, [Table 282-0069](#) – Labour force survey estimates (LFS), wages of employees by type of work, National Occupational Classification for Statistics (NOC-S), sex and age group, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (current dollars unless otherwise noted), CANSIM database (website accessed: June 25, 2015).

²⁵ Drew Allen and Gregory C. Wolniak, "[Exploring the Effects of Tuition Increases on Racial/Ethnic Diversity at Public Colleges and Universities](#)," American Educational Research Association, 2015 Annual Meeting, Chicago: April 2015.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

student bodies.”²⁷ They are even able to calculate that, all else being equal, “a \$1,000 tuition increase for full-time undergraduate students is associated with a drop in campus diversity of almost 6 percent.”²⁸ This study focused exclusively on the issue of how costs modify racial diversity and did not address what impact they might have on socio-economic diversity, which might be even more strongly impacted by significant increases in educational costs.

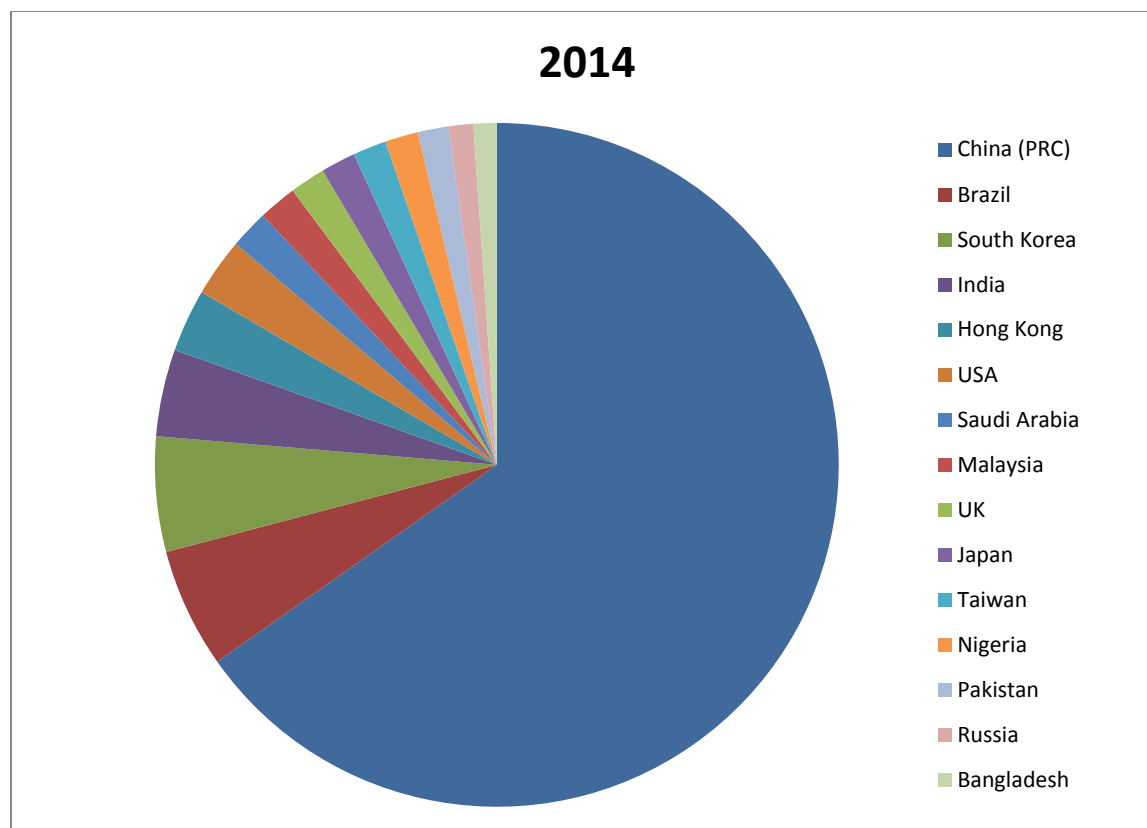
Although no published articles study this question at Canadian post-secondary institutions, and keeping in mind that correlation does not imply causation, what has been occurring at the University of Toronto may still be instructive.²⁹ Starting in the fall of 2007, UofT began raising undergraduate international tuition fees by 10% annually. It should be said that this rise in tuition was also accompanied by an increase in the number of undergraduate international students, going from 5,655 in 2007 to 11,894 in 2014, a 110% increase. However, a closer look at the data shows a startling drop in the diversity of international students at that institution, since students from the People’s Republic of China account for 81.4% of this increase. The two pie charts on the following page provide a visual illustration of how diversity has been modified at the University of Toronto in this time period:



²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 30.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ Source: [Multi-Year Facts and Figures Time Series, Section D – Students](#), University of Toronto (website accessed July 7, 2015).



Although an increase in the number of Chinese students is undoubtedly and for a variety of reasons a positive development for the university, the relative weakness in the increase of students from other countries should be a source of concern from a diversity perspective. At the very least, the correlation between significant increases in international tuition and decreases in diversity deserve to be better understood.

Student debt

According to a student outcomes study recently published by B.C. Stats,³⁰ nearly half (49%) of all baccalaureate students who graduated in 2011 incurred some form of debt (governmental or other). The median amount owed by those in the 2011 cohort who carried debt was \$20,000. In total, close to a third (29%) of respondents said that they experienced financial difficulties requiring them to curtail their studies:

- One in nine (11%) actually interrupted their studies for financial reasons;
- Nearly one in five (18%) attended university part-time for financial reasons.

Turning to the situation at UBC, AMS's 2015 student survey revealed that over a third of respondents (34%) indicated that they had relied on loans to support their education.³¹ But a closer look at the data collected for this survey suggests that UBC students may actually be slightly more likely to hold debt than the average B.C student: Given that 42% of all

³⁰ Source: BCStats, [BC Student Outcomes: The 2013 Highlights](#)

³¹ AMS Student Society of UBC Vancouver, *2015 Academic Experience Survey*, Vancouver, July 2015, p. 84.

respondents did not know if they would have debt at the end of their studies, the actual number of students with debt may be significantly under-represented. To increase the relevance of the results, it may be instructive to remove the students who did not know if they would finish with debt. Among the resulting sub-group, 59% say they will finish with some debt, while 41% claim they will have none. It is also instructive to note that 36% of students indicate that they experience financial hardship related to their tuition and other expenses, while 44% of them worry regularly about how to pay their tuition and other expenses.³²

All of these statistics clearly indicate that affordability is a major issue for many students at UBC and that rising costs to post-secondary education could have long-term impacts on their studies (not to mention the future of our society and knowledge economy) if not addressed adequately.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing analysis, a few closing recommendations are in order:

- Given the high cost of living in many parts of British Columbia, including Metro Vancouver, this province's post-secondary institutions will lose a major competitive advantages if tuition and other educational costs under their control are allowed to rise above the national average or to market value. The AMS should begin to include the implication of raising costs with the university administration, including developing a definition of diversity, in order to prove that diversity does decrease with an increase of tuition and other educational costs;
- Although tuition in British Columbia and UBC is lower than the amounts charged at most private and public universities in the United States, the higher ranking of many private and public American institutions limits the tuition increases that can be imposed on international students, pointing to potential flaws in determining the market value of international student tuition at UBC;
- Given the very high cost of living in the Lower Mainland, the AMS should gather as much credible data as possible from its members from next years' Academic Experience Survey on how students fund their education and the specific breakdown of their costs. This could help to find out what impact, if any, increases might have on the socio-economic and ethnic diversity of international university applicants;
- The AMS should hold a series of participatory roundtables for UBC students to come up with a complete, evidence-based counter-budget to the university administration. Such a budget could propose additional efficiencies and revenue streams to reduce the institution's reliance on tuition.

³² *Ibid.*, p. 89.