

Title & Number:

#E-?: UBC and Student Affordability

Effective Date/Expiry Date (if applicable):

TBD

Approval Date:

TBD

Policy Type:

External Policy

Review Date:

This policy shall be reviewed every one (1) year.

Responsible Body:

AMS University and External Relations Committee

Authority:

AMS Code of Procedure Section II, article 11(1)

“Council may create external and internal policies as well as combined policies.”

Purpose and Goals:

This policy is designed to state the AMS’s stance on:

- 1) The issue of UBC student affordability as a whole, from the perspective of how the University can increase financial accessibility;
- 2) Ways that the AMS can work with UBC to alleviate financial pressures on students.

Applicability:

This policy is applicable to the AMS’s stance towards the University, and the advocacy of the VP Academic and University Affairs to the University.

Exclusions:

There are no exclusions for this policy.

Definitions:

There are no definitions for this policy.

Policy:

Whereas UBC has been increasing tuition for both domestic and international students every year since 2002, with increases to international student tuition consistently exceeding increases to domestic tuition;

Whereas the cost of living in Metro Vancouver, especially housing, has risen significantly in the past few years, including a 20% increase for UBC student housing approved by the Board of Governors in 2015;

Whereas UBC has been facing serious financial challenges for several decades, due in large part to the stagnation in funding for post-secondary education and research from the federal and provincial governments;

Whereas the BC Provincial Government has maintained a 2% cap on annual tuition increases for domestic students since 2005;

- 1) Be it resolved that the AMS encourages UBC to advocate for the maintenance of the government's 2% tuition cap;
- 2) Be it further resolved that the AMS oppose any UBC international student tuition increases that exceed increases to domestic student tuition;
- 3) Be it further resolved that the AMS oppose any increases to UBC student housing beyond increases intended to offset inflation;
- 4) Be it resolved that the VP Academic and University Affairs work with UBC on making budget proposals that preserve student affordability and accessibility while also addressing UBC's financial challenges;
- 5) Be it resolved that the VP Academic and University Affairs work with UBC on allocating funds raised through increases to tuition and student housing, with a focus on providing additional resources for financial aid and student health and wellbeing;
- 6) Be it resolved that the VP Academic and University Affairs collaborate with UBC to explore increased use of Open Education Resources in UBC courses in a way that is academically sound, with a particular emphasis on resources that lower costs for students like Open Textbooks¹;

Consultations:

The following groups have been consulted during the development of this policy:

AMS University and Government Relations Advisor, AMS University and External Relations Committee, AMS VP External Office, AMS VP Academic & University Affairs Office.

History:

This is the first draft of the ??? version of this policy.

¹ Information about BCCampus' current Open Textbook initiative can be found at <http://bccampus.ca/open-textbook-project/>.

Related Policies:

UBC's Policy 71, "Consultation with Students about Tuition and Mandatory Fees," lays out guidelines for how the University is to consult with students on changes to tuition and mandatory fees.²

Appendix/Appendices:

A briefing note titled "Post-secondary tuition in British Columbia and at UBC" accompanies this policy.³

DRAFT

² <http://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/files/2010/08/policy71.pdf>

³ [Link to briefing note \(pending\)](#)