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 Textbooks;

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.

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1 Information about BCCampus’ current Open Textbook initiative can be found at [http://bccampus.ca/open-textbook-project/](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

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³ Link to briefing note (pending)