AMS Submission to Board of Governors regarding the proposed tuition structure
Doctor of Pharmacy Program

Dear UBC Board of Governors,

This submission is being made on behalf of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC Vancouver in response to the request for feedback from the Vice-President Students’ Office sent to the AMS and the Pharmacy Undergraduate Students’ Society (PhUS) on January 23, 2014. Student representatives were invited to engage in a discussion regarding the same with the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the presence of the Director of the VP Students’ Office on January 29, 2014. This submission outlines the student response to and concerns with the proposed tuition and the consultation process.

Overall, the AMS will not extend its full support to the outlined proposal until we receive a detailed budget breakdown for the proposed tuition model. While we recognize that the nature of this program demands a higher financial investment into learning resources, the AMS would like to see a line-by-line breakdown of specific financial allocations that justify the benefits of program aspects like smaller classes, experiential learning opportunities, learning technologies and additional staff support.

That said, there are also significant concerns with the process in which this consultation was carried out. Our largest concern as student representatives is the extremely short timeframe in which the tuition consultation process was conducted. We commend the Faculty for their openness to dialogue. However, we are disappointed with the lack of time for gathering feedback from various student groups. The AMS would also like to note its dissatisfaction with respect to the proposed financial assistance support for prospective students. Instead of access to a one-time $500 experiential learning education fund, we would like to see needs based measures that can be used to support students with varying financial needs.

In the future, we recommend the University to amend its new program tuition consultation guidelines and take proactive measures to involve students in the consultation process at least 30 days in advance, rather than the one week that was provided for this item. This would enable the AMS and PhUS to discuss the proposal with a more diverse range of students in
greater detail without feeling rushed into decisions, and ensure proper accountability to students at large when developing new programs.

The AMS and the PhUS would also strongly encourage the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and by extension, all Faculties in the future to provide a detailed breakdown that includes clear financial allocations. We believe that this would provide a more comprehensive and concrete tuition rationale than the broad overview that was made available to us in this round of consultations.

The AMS, on behalf of UBC Vancouver students, is grateful to the University and the Faculty for including student input through points in the process and strongly encourages the University to act on the above-mentioned recommendations in order to enhance and improve future consultation processes.

Sincerely,

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