Dear UBC students,

On Tuesday, October 7th, your AMS and other campus organizations were notified by the Vice-President Students, Louise Cowin, and Vice-President, Academic and Provost, David Farrar, of a proposal related to an increase in both international tuition fees, and residence fees.

The university has proposed an increase to international tuition by 10% above the current levels for the incoming cohort of students. To put this into perspective, certain programs, like Arts and Science, would see an increase from $23,999.10 in 2014/15 to $26,299.01 in 2015/16. The university proposes to use the revenue from this fee increase to fund increased student services, increased financial assistance for international students and general program funding, however, at this time the university has not provided financial details for the usage of the additional revenue.

Additionally, the university also has proposed a 20% increase to residence fees applied for those students living in Winter Session housing. This would increase a connected single room in Totem Park 2015 from $4,374.00 to $6,448.80 in 2015/2016, which means a monthly rent of $806.10. The increase in revenue from residence fees are proposed to be used also towards student services and sustaining their rate of growth and increase in the number of beds available to students, however, at this time, the university also has not provided financial details for the usage of the additional revenue.

With respect to this, UBC has announced a 30-day consultation window where students and members of the UBC community will be able to participate and voice their opinion on the proposed tuition increases. This consultation process will include multiple town halls on the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses, a web submission form, and consultation sessions with student leadership, including the AMS and other campus organizations. We also encourage students to participate in the consultation processes, and ensure that the university hears your concerns and opinions in a respectful and constructive manner. The AMS does not promote or support events or dialogue that is intended to disrupt the universities’ function, or that is ad hominem in nature. Consultation closes on November 7th, and you can add your thoughts by attending a town hall or online at: https://consultations.students.ubc.ca/consultations/international-student-tuition-consultation.

Your AMS is currently in discussions with the university, and has asked for clarification on details surrounding both proposals, which we expect to be provided in the coming days. At the same time, the AMS is currently consulting with students and is partnering with a number of student organizations on campus, with a first official response and policy to be announced on Tuesday, October 14th at an emergency AMS Council meeting. We encourage all students to attend that meeting and have their voices heard. The meeting is at 6pm in SUB 206.

In addition, there will be a number of events throughout the coming days and weeks, such as a Teach-In, where you can learn more information about the issues at hand, and a General Assembly, for
students to express their thoughts and help be part of coordinating a response plan. More information can be found at https://www.facebook.com/events/530485677095099/.

The AMS is committed to working with any and every student and organization that wishes to join with us in ensuring a fair practice during this consultation and safeguarding the affordability and accessibility of a post-secondary education, which is and ought to be a right of every individual.

More information will be released from the AMS shortly. In the meantime, my door, and the door of every member of your AMS Executive, is always open to each of you at any time.

Best wishes,

Tanner Bokor

105th President

Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC Vancouver