AMS Submission to Board of Governors regarding the proposed tuition structure for the Graduate Certificate in Adult Learning and Education

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 on March 25, 2014. This submission outlines the student response to and concerns with the proposed tuition and the consultation process.

Overall, the AMS extends its support to the outlined proposal. We recognize that the nature of this program demands a slightly higher financial investment into learning resources. We believe that the justifications such as additional advising support for students in the program will contribute to quality education for students. We recognize that the costs of the program are similar to the costs of existing programs, and represent the real costs of the program. We are also thankful that consideration of costs for international students have been taken into account, with a relatively small difference between domestic and international student tuition, given that this is not a program directly subsidized by the government.

The AMS also appreciates the attention given to financial assistance for prospective students in the proposal. However, as students advocating for students, we would like to more concrete measures that will be taken to ensure equal opportunities for students who require financial aid in order to access the program.

The AMS would like to express their gratitude to the University for working on previous recommendations with respect to the student consultation process and providing a longer consultation period. If there had been concerns with the proposed tuition, this would have allowed more time for the AMS to reach out to student groups, and we would reiterate our request for a minimum of 30 days consultation for all programs.
The AMS and GSS, on behalf of UBC students is grateful to the University and the Faculty of Arts for including student input through various points in the process.

Sincerely,

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