Submission to the UBC Board of Governors Regarding the Proposed Tuition for the Master of Science in Data Science

On Behalf of
Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver
International Students’ Association
November 14, 2015

Dear Board of Governors,

This submission is being made on behalf of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) and the International Students’ Association (ISA) of UBC Vancouver in response to the request for feedback from the Vice-President Students’ Office sent to these groups on September 20th, 2015 on the tuition for the Master of Science in Data Science.

Overall both the domestic and international tuition proposals are in line with comparable programs, though it is hard to determine programs that are exactly alike because of the new area of expertise this master’s program is actually touching on. The low entry requirements mean that a diverse set of students will be able to access the program, and the AMS and ISA are happy to see that considerations surrounding student financial aid have been made already. The $30,000 proposed for domestic students and $40,000 for international students are appropriate tuitions for this program.

In terms of reasons given for this level of tuition, the access to career services to the Master of Science in Data Science students, as well as the hiring of a new staff person being able to connect to the community, will be a huge benefit to students in the program and comes with some large costs. With the Faculty’s view to be recruiting domestically primarily in the first year of the program, the AMS and ISA hope that this first smaller cohort will be considered specifically in terms of their needs for student financial aid and that a robust system of aid be set up for future students in the program, domestic and international.

The AMS and ISA are grateful to the University and Faculty of Science for including student input throughout the process, and especially in the tuition consultation. The AMS strongly encourages the University to act upon the recommendations aforementioned.

Sincerely,

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