



Student Society  
of UBC Vancouver

## **AMS Fee Restructure Proposal**

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## PURPOSE

This proposal is intended to address the various issues that Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia Vancouver (“AMS”) currently faces with the present fee structure and ensure better financial accountability and transparency of what students pay for. The current fee structure that is utilized by the AMS lacks flexibility and is very fixed in the spending allotted to various projects. Furthermore, there are numerous ancillary fees that have been added since 1952 which now result in a total of 21 individual fees charged to AMS members on a yearly basis (excluding all exceptions). The current fee structure holds the fees that were passed by referendum in the past for an indefinite period. This results in a lack of accountability in regards to how the money is spent and no ability for students to decide on whether or not they wish to participate in funding such services/initiatives. This additionally impacts the perception of fees that are not levied by the AMS, but with which students associate with the AMS.

The barrier to removing the fee is exceptionally high and one of the primary challenges students face. This is vital as students should have the opportunity to vote on whether or not a fee should continue to be administered without having to run a referendum against it, which can be extremely difficult. Amongst the many policy changes over the years, one that is significant is the distinction between service and capital fees introduced under the Societies’ Act. All of this is crucial when deciding which auxiliary fees are essential for the continued operations of our society and ensure future financial success for the students’ AMS.

## CURRENT FEE STRUCTURE

(Table 1)

DESCRIPTION	FEE COST	Date of Inception
General Fee	\$ 40.23	1915
Capital Projects Fund Fee	\$ 7.79	1982
Student Aid Bursary Fee	\$ 12.00	1999
Athletics and Intramural Fee	\$ 21.00	1982
Ombudsperson Fee	\$ 1.07	2014
Sexual Assault Support Services Fee	\$ 3.55	2004
Refugee Assistance Fee (WUSC)	\$ 5.34	1990
Resource Groups Fee	\$ 1.64	1997
Lighter Footprint Fee	\$ 2.46	2011
International Fee	\$ 0.27	2011
Bike Kitchen Fee	\$ 1.06	2014
Clubs Benefit Fee	\$ 1.64	2011
Childcare Bursary Levy Fee	\$ 1.09	2012
Student Legal Fund Fee	\$ 1.00	1999
Campus Culture and Performance Fee	\$ 1.75	2016
Graduating Class	\$ 7.00	1952

Please note, the fees not included in the current and proposed new structure are (they account for student well-being or are historical publications which have been grandfathered in):

1. Health & Dental Fee (\$232.49)
2. U-Pass Fee (\$164.00)
3. SUB Renewal Fee (\$100.00)
4. CiTR Fee (\$5.46)
5. The Ubyyssey Fee (\$6.55)

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fixed funding for services to ensure continuity.</li> <li>- Easier budgeting practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Model is restricted, creates inability to shift/adapt on a yearly basis and expand great programs while reducing ones that are not as successful.</li> <li>- Left over capital in funds that sits over time and remains under utilized year over year.</li> <li>- General operating fee accounts to merely small percentage of the total fees administered to students year. This creates confusion with regards to financial transparency of AMS finances.</li> <li>- Students lack the opportunity to make decisions on what they wish to pay for.</li> </ul>

## NEW PROPOSED FEE STRUCTURE

A new proposed fee structure that would encourage accountability, transparency and provide students with the ability to vote on the fees that they wish to pay for. Taking into account some vital fees that are mandatory for successful future AMS operations the fee structure functions in 3 main categories; (1) Bundle Phase; (2) Renewal Phase; (3) Roll-Over Phase.

This fee restructure is intended to affect all currently listed fees in Table 2, and any future fees including but not limited to Fiscal Year 2017-2018 (*and any fees running up for referendum in the current fiscal year not including the listed exceptions earlier in the document*).

### Bundle Phase

- a) These are the fees that are necessary for successful future operations of the student society and are integral in capital financing, providing extensive support to our students and AMS student clubs.

### Renewal Phase

- a) Each fee in Table 2 that is not included in the “Bundle” is subject to be put up for renewal on a 3 year term basis. Upon running the referendum, it has to successfully pass in order for the AMS to continue administering the fee to the students.
- b) This will encourage transparency and accountability of all organizations/services receiving moneys and remind students of the purpose of the fee. The decision for administration should be entirely on the AMS members to decide which fees they deem necessary and important, allowing them to contribute to the financial future as members of the society.
- c) There will be a maximum of up to **three (3) fees per year** that will be eligible for renewal based on the date of inception (earliest fees will be up for renewal first).

### Roll-Over Phase

- a) If a referendum to renew the particular fee fails, it will not be discontinued immediately and will have **one (1) more fiscal year** of collection before being removed entirely.
- b) The roll-over phase is intended to provide a smooth transition into discontinuation of the fee and not cause any abrupt damage to the receiver.

## New Fee Model

(Table 2)

Description	Current	New	Decision
General Fee	\$ 40.23	\$ 40.23	Bundle
Capital Projects Fund Fee	\$ 7.79	\$ 7.79	Bundle
Lighter Footprint Fee	\$ 2.46	\$ 2.46	Bundle
Clubs Benefit Fee	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.64	Bundle
<b>Sexual Assault Support Services Fee</b>	<b>\$ 3.55</b>	<b>\$ 7.00</b>	Bundle
WUSC Fee	\$ 5.34	\$ 5.34	Renewal
Student Aid Bursary Fee	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	Renewal
International Fee	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.27	Renewal
Childcare Bursary Levy Fee	\$ 1.09	\$ 1.09	Renewal
Athletics and Intramural Fee	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.00	Renewal
Ombudsperson Fee	\$ 1.07	\$ 1.07	Renewal
Resource Groups Fee	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.64	Renewal
Bike Kitchen Fee	\$ 1.06	\$ 1.06	Renewal
Student Legal Fund Fee	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	Renewal
Campus Culture and Performance Fee	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.75	Renewal
<b>Graduating Class Fee</b>	<b>\$ 7.00</b>	<b>\$ 3.55</b>	Renewal

Please note that the fees in the “New” column are not adjusted to Consumer Price Index (CPI) and which they will be subject to in Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The “New” column is only used to reflect any price increases or decreases for the following year. The proposed changes are:

1. Sexual Assault Support Services Fee: Increase from **\$3.55** to **\$7.00** to support the ongoing operations of the Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC) which is a crucial service to student well-being and mental health on campus.
2. Graduating Class Fee: Decrease from **\$7.00** to **\$3.55** to accurately reflect the spending of graduating classes over the past decade.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new model is less restricted, creating more flexibility for possible discretionary allocation.</li> <li>- Holds the current fees accountable and allows for our students to vote on the fees they are paying for.</li> <li>- Allows for the organizations/services to ensure they are engaging with the student body.</li> <li>- Increases transparency of the AMS Fee structure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- May cause certain fees that support student groups to be discontinued if they are not successfully voted on.</li> </ul>

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