

Policy Number: E-4
Title: UBC and Student Affordability

Passed: July 29, 2015
Expires:

Summary:

Directs the VP Academic to advocate to the University for increased affordability measures for students.

Number & Title:

E-4: UBC and Student Affordability

Effective Date/Expiry Date (if applicable):

July 29, 2015

Approval Date:

September 27, 2017

Policy Type:

External Policy

Review Date:

This policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years.

Responsible Body:

AMS Advocacy Committee

Authority:

AMS Code of Procedure Section II, article 11(1)

“Council may create external and internal policies as well as combined policies.”

Purpose and Goals:

This policy is designed to state the AMS’s stance on:

- 1) The issue of UBC student affordability as a whole, from the perspective of how the University can increase financial accessibility;
- 2) Ways that the AMS can work with UBC to alleviate financial pressures on students.

Applicability:

This policy is applicable to the AMS’s stance towards the University, and the advocacy of the VP Academic and University Affairs to the University.

Exclusions:

There are no exclusions for this policy.

Definitions:

There are no definitions for this policy.

Policy:

Whereas UBC has been increasing tuition for both domestic and international students every year since 2002, with increases to international student tuition consistently exceeding increases to domestic tuition;

Whereas the cost of living in Metro Vancouver, especially housing, has risen significantly in the past few years, including a 20% increase for UBC student housing approved by the Board of Governors in 2015;

Whereas UBC has been facing serious financial challenges for several decades, due in large part to the stagnation in funding for post-secondary education and research from the federal and provincial governments;

Whereas the BC Provincial Government has maintained a 2% cap on annual tuition increases for domestic students since 2005;

- 1) Be it resolved that the AMS encourages UBC to advocate for the maintenance of the government's 2% tuition cap;
- 2) Be it further resolved that the AMS oppose any UBC international student tuition increases that exceed increases to domestic student tuition;
- 3) Be it further resolved that the AMS oppose any increases to UBC student housing beyond increases intended to offset inflation;
- 4) Be it resolved that the VP Academic and University Affairs work with UBC on making budget proposals that preserve student affordability and accessibility while also addressing UBC's financial challenges;
- 5) Be it resolved that the VP Academic and University Affairs work with UBC on allocating funds raised through increases to tuition greater than 2% and increases to student housing greater than inflation, with a focus on areas that address financial accessibility or that will provide the greatest benefit to students;
- 6) Be it resolved that the VP Academic and University Affairs collaborate with UBC to explore increased use of Open Education Resources in UBC courses in a way that is academically sound, with a particular emphasis on resources that lower costs for students;¹
- 7) Be it resolved that the VP Academic and University Affairs explore and pursue initiatives, in collaboration with UBC where appropriate, that will decrease the cost of living for students, including, but not limited to, housing affordability and food costs on campus.

Consultations:

The following groups have been consulted during the development of this policy:

AMS Policy Advisor, AMS Advocacy Committee, AMS VP External Office, AMS VP Academic & University Affairs Office.

History:

This is the first draft of the second version of this policy.

¹ Information about BC Campus' current Open Textbook initiative can be found at <http://bccampus.ca/open-textbook-project/>.

Related Policies:

UBC's Policy 71, "Consultation with Students about Tuition and Mandatory Fees," lays out guidelines for how the University is to consult with students on changes to tuition and mandatory fees.²

Appendix/Appendices:

A briefing note titled "Post-secondary affordability and accessibility" accompanies this policy.³

² <http://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/files/2010/08/policy71.pdf>

³ http://www.ams.ubc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/065-16-BN-Affordability_Accessibility-2015_07_07.pdf