

Differential Tuition Policy

Students' Legislative Council (69.39)

Approved: March 13, 2012 (69.33)¹
Amended: Jan. 20, 2015 (72.52); Nov. 24, 2015 (73.22)



Definitions

International Student Tuition refers to differential tuition fees set for courses taken by individuals who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

Market Modifiers refer to differential tuition fee increases allowed under the Alberta *Public Post-Secondary Institutions' Tuition Fees Regulation* that are above the rate of inflation. Market modifiers are intended to correct discrepancies between the tuition fees set by the board of an institution in respect of a specific program of study and tuition fees for similar programs of study in other jurisdictions or in other sections or institutions in Campus Alberta. Market modifiers are subject to approval by the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education.

Authority

- 1 (1) Section 93(3) of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* legislates that the students' association of a public post-secondary institution shall provide for the administration of student affairs at the public post-secondary institution, including the promotion of the general welfare of the students consistent with the purposes of the public post-secondary institution.
- (2) Section 95(4) of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* legislates that the Students' Legislative Council (SLC) is the official channel of communication between students at the University of Calgary and the University of Calgary Board of Governors.
- 2 (1) Article VI, Section B of the Constitution establishes SLC as the policy making body of the Students' Union.
- (3) The SU's Policy Development and Review Policy establishes Advocacy Policy as a means for the SU to represent the interests of Active Members to external groups including government, media, and other organizations.
- 3 (1) Market modifiers are typically considered as part of the University of Calgary's tuition consultation process. As established in the SU's Tuition Fee Accountability Policy, SLC shall consider the following principles when determining the value of tuition and fee increases:
 - (a) The quality of education;
 - (b) The quality of student life; and
 - (c) Affordability and accessibility.

¹ This policy was originally named the Policy on Market Modification.

Scope and Purpose

- 3 (1) The purpose of this advocacy policy shall be to provide direction for SU elected officials delegated authority to advocate to government and university administration on behalf of undergraduate students at the University of Calgary regarding proposed tuition fee increases that are above the rate of inflation.
- (2) This policy shall apply to Market Modifier proposals and proposals to increase International Student Tuition above the rate of inflation presented by university administration.

Policy Statement

- 4 (1) In accordance with its mission, vision, and values, the SU believes that:
 - (a) The accessibility and affordability of post-secondary education are paramount in consideration of proposals to increase tuition fees;
 - (b) Costs should be predictable for all students;
 - (c) Needs-based financial aid should be a primary concern with regard to differential fee increases;
 - (d) Program quality should meet student expectations; and
 - (e) Student input has formative value in the development and consideration of proposals to increase tuition fees.

Expectations

- 5 (1) Students may choose to support proposals to increase tuition above the rate of inflation in the event that the following issues are adequately addressed by university administration through adequate consultation with students and reflected in the final proposals submitted to government and the Board of Governors:
 - (a) The necessity of differential increases above the rate of inflation in specified programs – consultation processes should demonstrate to students that:
 - (i) There is a clear disparity in program quality² at the University of Calgary compared to what is offered at other post-secondary institutions in Canada;
 - (ii) A market modifier would serve to either enhance or maintain program quality compared to similar programs at other post-secondary institutions in Canada;
 - (iii) There is student demand for the aspects of program quality to be maintained or enhanced; and
 - (iv) No other reasonable mechanism could be used to resolve the demonstrated disparity in program quality.
 - (b) A clear explanation of how differential tuition revenue would be allocated, including:
 - (i) The portion of revenue allocated to the faculty, university administration, and financial aid;

² Program quality may be measured or described by class sizes, course offerings and availability, classroom and lab facilities, academic support services, library resources, etc.

- (ii) Specific aspects of program quality to be enhanced or maintained, including metrics for successful implementation;
 - (c) A clear explanation of a proposed tuition fee increase's impact on affordability and accessibility, including:
 - (i) A review of current financial aid resources available to students in affected programs;
 - (ii) A review of proposed changes to financial aid resources available to students in affected programs;
 - (iii) Discussion regarding the appropriate levels of financial aid that should be made available to students in affected programs; and
 - (iv) The details of proposed financial aid resources, such as the proposed terms of reference for bursary awards including the number of awards that would be available, the amount of each award, and the award criteria; and
 - (d) The university's long-term plan to ensure that students in affected programs are not subject to additional differential increases.
- (2) Subsequent to section 5(1), adequate consultation with students shall include at minimum:
- (a) Timely discussion of relevant issues with Students' Union representatives at the Tuition and Fees Consultation Committee;
 - (b) Timely discussion of relevant issues by the Provost at a Students' Legislative Council meeting;
 - (c) Timely discussion of relevant issues by members of senior administration with SU Faculty Representatives and other student leaders, as appropriate;
 - (d) Town halls, open to the public, that are held for the purpose of receiving feedback from students in affected programs; and
 - (e) Quantitative and qualitative data collected through surveys of students in affected programs.