

University of Alberta Students' Union

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday November 19, 2002 - 6:00 PM
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

2002-16/12

LEGISLATION

2002-16/12i
Tuition Task
Force - Political
Policy

HUDEMA MOVED THAT Students' Council adopt the proposed Political Policy regarding Tuition, which the Executive Committee considers to be representative of the recommendations of the Tuition Task Force.

Please see document LA 02-16.01.

2002-16/12j
Political Policy -
Differential
Tuition

SHARMA/BRECHTEL MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the External Affairs Board and the Academic Affairs Board, adopt the proposed Political Policy - Differential Tuition.

Please see document LA 02-16.02.

2002-16/15

INFORMATION ITEMS

2002-16/15b

University Under-Funding and the Creation of a Crisis

Please see document LA 02-16.03.

PROPOSED

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

<i>Policy Number:</i>	<i>Effective Date:</i> November 19, 2002	<i>Page</i> 1 <i>of</i> 2
	<i>Expiration Date:</i>	
<i>Responsibility for Policy:</i>	Executive Committee	
<i>Subject Matter</i>	- <i>Category:</i> POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)	
	- <i>Specific:</i> <i>Tuition Policy</i>	
	- <i>Topic:</i>	

WHEREAS the Students' Union has identified several areas of potential savings at the University of Alberta, adding up to a possible \$13.3 million;

WHEREAS students at the University of Alberta have seen tuition go up 209% between 1991 and 2001/02;

WHEREAS the province of Alberta has one of the best-performing economies in Canada;

WHEREAS the province of Alberta is ranked 7th out of 10 provinces in terms of operating grants to universities;

WHEREAS the Alberta government surplus was \$720 million for the 2002-03 fiscal year;

WHEREAS a funded tuition freeze would cost approximately 7.798 million dollars, or 1.08% of the Alberta provincial budget surplus for the 2002-03 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS tuition fees are frozen in Quebec and Manitoba, and are being rolled back in Newfoundland;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union campaign for a funded tuition freeze for the 2003-04 school year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union work with the University of Alberta administration in securing the needed funds from the provincial government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union work with the University of Alberta administration in a campaign that asks the provincial government to bring funding for Alberta Universities up to the national average; and

Policy History:

Reference/Vote

Board/Committee

**Date of Council
Approval**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union work with the University of Alberta administration in identifying savings in the University budget, for the purposed of funding a tuition freeze.

Policy History:

Reference/Vote

Board/Committee

**Date of Council
Approval**

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<i>Responsibility for Policy:</i>	Executive Committee	
<i>Subject Matter</i>	- <i>Category:</i> POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)	
	- <i>Specific:</i> <i>Differential Tuition</i>	
	- <i>Topic:</i>	

WHEREAS differential tuition represents a serious departure from past University commitments to affordability and accessibility;

WHEREAS 20% of differential fees for student support is not sufficient in order to ensure low and middle income access to post-secondary education;

WHEREAS one of the arguments in favor of differential tuition is that graduates of professional programs have higher earning potential, yet evidence indicates that this is not the case for all specializations within a program. As such, differential tuition directs graduates from socially necessary though ill remunerated occupations such as general health practice and legal aid defense in favor of well-paid specializations. Differential tuition thus has the potential to alter the balance of fields of occupation within a discipline;

WHEREAS studies on national and provincial levels indicate that high tuition, in particular differentiated tuition, creates substantial barriers to participation;

WHEREAS an indicator of quality is student-faculty ratios;

WHEREAS student-faculty ratios have not decreased in Faculties of Law that have implemented differential tuition in universities across Canada;

WHEREAS the average debt of University of Alberta students with government students loans is \$18,000, and increasing this debt burden would create serious financial hardship for university graduates;

WHEREAS an increase in tuition fees often necessitates an increase in the number of hours per week of student employment;

Policy History:

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WHEREAS this increase in hours of employment will adversely affect the quality of postsecondary education;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union is opposed to differential tuition for and academic faculty or program.

Policy History:

Reference/Vote

Board/Committee

**Date of Council
Approval**