

**Date:** 02.09.21

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** BoG Rep 2020/2021 Report 16 - **Tuition and Instagram**

---

Dear Council,

### **Tuition Vote**

1. **Board Members:** coming up March 12, we have some time before the vote. I have met with 5 board members up to this point and have upcoming meetings in process. They have all been sympathetic to the student situation, recognizing they have children in university and do not want tuition to increase, but also seeing an impossible financial situation given to them by the government. They shared some good long term ideas, some of which echo student leaders:
  - a. Establishing policy around finance decisions that involves human wellbeing and experience instead of only financial feasibility.
  - b. Advocating against high full load equivalents (FLE)<sup>1</sup> relative to the rest of Canada that have resulted from historically high professor salaries and a salary scaling system that too easily allows for salary increases.
  - c. Push GoA to match Canadian student aid rate.
  - d. Supporting budget deconsolidation with GoA so that UAlberta can debt finance initiatives, which they cannot do right now because if they took on debt it would show up on GoA books, impacting GoA's capacity to take on loans..
2. **External Contacts:** I also chatted with student reps with MacEwan and ULethbridge while Joel got UCalgary. MacEwan's BoG Rep, Myles Dyke, said students built a compelling emotional case which moved the board but left their vote unchanged. They also asked about spreading the tuition increase over 6 years instead of 3 but the unknown nature of provincial elections worried their board. ULeth's administration created a collection of task forces to evaluate financial need throughout the university and their Students' Union is currently fighting to have student representation on these task forces.
3. **Internal Strategy:** Joel, Marc and I met this last Wednesday and divided board members to personally chat with before March 12th. We also compiled questions we can push the board on to remind administration there are many avenues to pursue in finding revenue. Right now our short term strategy includes building a case around students at the margins of rate increases who will hurt most and how losing these people intersects with several metrics UAlberta is concerned about doing well on. We're looking for

---

<sup>1</sup> An FLE represents the full cost of a single full-load student attending UAlberta, including teaching staff, facilities, non-academic staff, etc. It is a standardized measurement across post-secondary institutions for comparison.

financial tradeoffs in the budget as well. More to come, as we have regular meetings scheduled.

4. **Talking with CoRA:** Katie Kidd invited me to hear the Council of Residence Associations on residence and meal plan rate increases. We discussed 3-day meal plans as a cost reduction solution, the need for a different food vendor and the issue that raising rates in the middle of a pandemic hurts already-struggling students who may not even find employment this summer.
5. **CSJ Funding:** I will raise this at the board meeting. Some CSJ degrees are being forced to be completed with courses irrelevant to the degree because the campus cannot afford to host the appropriate courses. Additionally, there is a slough of maintenance issues, including the pressing need of a security system. More case building and conversations to come.
6. **Talking with Council:** Joel and I plan to discuss tuition issues with you on our March 9th Council meeting and will provide details closer to that date. I would appreciate hearing ideas and concerns from you and your constituents and encourage you to use this month to hear your constituents on these issues so that Joel, Marc and I can build the strongest case possible to yield results for students. I am happy to have conversations about this before March 9th as well.
7. **University Endowment Pool (UEP):** last year's BoG Rep campaign involved a lot of talk about the endowment fund. Looking at it this year, we had negative returns relative to our principal investment in 2020, so using the UEP is not an option.

#### **Social Media**

1. I have been posting progress reports for the last few seasons and January. Take a look @dave.konrad.bog if you'd like!

Thanks for reading!



University of Alberta Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative  
**Dave Konrad**