



Recommendations and Responses from Student Consultations

Impact of Student Feedback

Throughout the student consultations, a variety of feedback has been received from students including specific recommendations from the Students' Union (SU) and Graduate Students' Association (GSA). Below is a summary of the specific recommendations received from the student councils along with details on how they have been considered.

Undergraduate Students:

1. *Requests to extend the tuition decision timeline to allow for additional consultation with students*

- In response to a request received from student leaders on November 14, additional consultation activities were added to the consultation process and the Finance and Property Committee (FPC) and Board of Governors (BoG) submissions were postponed from November until January 2023. Meetings with the SU Students' Legislative Council (SLC) and GSA Graduate Representative Council (GRC) were held on November 29, 2022. A meeting with the SU Executive was held on December 1, 2022. An all-student tuition town hall was held on December 7, 2022. The SU SLC conducted additional consultation through discussions and surveys of students and shared this information at a meeting on December 13, 2022. Additionally, on December 13, 2022, a meeting was held with the GSA Exec regarding their concerns and recommendations centered on graduate student support and scholarship/bursary funding. A meeting with SU executive and Dino Athletics was held on December 15, 2022. Feedback from the initial and subsequent consultations has been incorporated into the final proposal.
- A subsequent request by the SU SLC was made on December 13, 2022 to further postpone the tuition decision until March 2023. This request was considered, and it was decided not to delay the tuition vote for several reasons. A further delay will affect many students who are planning for the costs of their tuition. In the case of new incoming international students, a March 2023 delay would affect international tuition guarantee letters that students are expecting in January. Additionally, a commitment was made to students during previous consultations to provide timely financial information as well as longer-term predictability for tuition and fees to inform personal planning.

2. *Request for a reduction in the Bachelor of Nursing tuition increase and further information on what the additional tuition revenue above 5.5% will be spent on:*

- In response, the proposed rate increase for the Bachelor of Nursing program has been reduced from 10.0% to 8.0%. The Faculty of Nursing is making the necessary changes to their budget and operational plans in anticipation of this change.
- A subsequent request by the SU SLC was made on December 13, 2022, to further reduce the BN Nursing increase from 8.0% to 5.5%.
 - The proposed reduction from 10.0% to 8.0% was the result of consultation with the SU through Tuition and Fees Consultation Committee (TFCC).

- The Faculty of Nursing has shared that the increased tuition revenue above 5.5% is needed to support the implementation of a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree that is currently moving through the internal governance processes. The tuition revenue will also go towards increased mental health support for Nursing students and faculty.
- The Dean of the Faculty of Nursing met with the Undergraduate Nursing Society on Dec 12, 2022, to discuss the proposed increase.
- A further reduction from 8.0% to 5.5% is not being considered at this time as the reduction in resources would limit the faculty's ability to implement these critical initiatives.

3. *Provide reporting on MNIF (Athletics, Campus Recreation and Student Services Fee) as required in the Tuition and Fees Regulation.*

- The Tuition and Fees Regulation (TFR) requires that the institution provide all necessary information to compare the revenue from mandatory non-instructional fees to the costs of the specific goods and services in respect of which each mandatory non-instructional fee is set. Annually, as per this regulation, the following has been provided to the SU and GSA:
 - Student Services Fee – An annual Student Services Fee report is prepared and shared with student councils at the January TFCC meeting and reports are posted publicly on the student services website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/guide-services-students>
 - Athletics and Campus Recreation Fees - Historically, this information has been provided to the student councils through Athletics and Campus Recreation presentations and Q & A during the fall TFCC meetings. Revenue from the Athletics and Campus Recreation fees and the costs of specific goods and services that the fees contribute toward was shared at the October 6, 2022 TFCC meeting.
- At the November 29, 2022, SU SLC meeting, historical Athletics and Campus Recreation MNIF revenue and expense information for 2018-19 to 2020-21 was requested. In response, a summary of MNIF revenue and the cost of specific goods and services that the MNIF revenue supports for these years as well as 2021-2022 was provided to the Student Councils on December 4, 2022.
 - It should be noted that no Athletics or Campus Recreation Fees were collected in 2020-21 and fees in winter 2022 were prorated due to COVID-19 and students being online.
- The reporting process for this tuition cycle is consistent with previous years. In response to concerns raised by the Students Union in late fall 2022 regarding the MNIF reporting, we have committed to working with the student councils on a review of the MNIF reporting format for the next reporting cycle.

4. *Reduce the Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF) Fee Increase*

- In response, the proposed Athletics and Campus Recreation fee increases were reduced from 7.0% to Consumer Price Index (CPI) at 5.5%.
 - This change was made as a result of the TFCC consultation process. The leadership teams are in the process of making the necessary adjustments to their budget and operational plans.
- A subsequent request was made on December 13, 2022 to further reduce the proposed MNIF fee increase from 5.5% (CPI) to 0.0% until the legislative reporting compliance for MNIFs has been met.
 - A further reduction from 5.5% to 0.0% is not being considered at this time as reporting has been provided (see above for the additional commitments also made) and both Athletics and Campus Recreation are facing continued rising costs of goods and services

due to inflation. Both units also received a reduction in revenue (due to COVID) for 2019-20 and 2020-21 due to MNIF fees not being charged (2020-21) and being prorated (winter 2022).

5. *Increase investment in student health and wellness support*

- In response, a commitment has been made to review Student Wellness Services to enhance the alignment of resources with emerging student priorities including those from equity-deserving groups. This review will take 12-18 months to complete depending on recommendations and an implementation plan. Vice-Provost, Student Experience and the Senior Director – Student Wellness will lead this and will provide progress updates throughout.
- A commitment has also been made to explore hiring additional staff for the winter 2023 term, until the review is completed.
- In addition, as part of the team’s focus on enhancing support for equity deserving groups, the process of hiring a tenure-track Indigenous Counsellor is already underway in consultation with the Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement.

6. *Provide a 4-year outlook on tuition and fees and historical reporting on Campus Recreation and Athletics fees*

- Anticipated increases to tuition and fees and mandatory non-instructional fees for a four-year period are annually provided to students’ councils at the Finance and Property Committee as part of the tuition proposal. The statement of increases was provided as part of the original November FPC meeting agenda package.
- After the tuition motion was postponed until January and removed from the agenda package, a summary statement was shared again as a stand-alone document with the Students’ Union and Graduate Students’ Association executives on December 4, 2022. The information is also included as part of this tuition proposal.

7. *Update TFCC on metrics to measure Exceptional Tuition Increase outcomes*

- Exceptional Tuition Increase reporting for increases that began in 2022-2023 will align with Ministry reporting requirements and we have committed to reporting back to the SU and GSA at the end of this academic year.

Graduate Students:

8. *Increase support and needs-based bursaries for graduate students*

- In response, a commitment has been made to:
 - a 20% base increase to the GSA needs-based bursaries (\$100,000) for 2023-2024
 - annually increasing GSA needs-based bursaries by CPI (5.5% or \$33,000 for 2023-2024)
 - exploring an increase to the maximum bursary amount for individual graduate students (currently \$1,500)
 - increasing the International Graduate Tuition Award proportionally to tuition increases for thesis-based international students (2% in 2023-24).

9. *Reduce the proposed increase to MEng tuition*

- In response, Engineering is launching initiatives to better support MEng students through 12-month internships Graduate Assistantships-Teaching. No change is proposed to the MEng tuition increase.

Undergraduate and Graduate students:

10. Support for needs-based bursaries

- In response, the institution has committed to allocating 15.0% of the incremental tuition rate increase received in 2023-2024 into a needs-based 2023-2024 Tuition Reinvestment Bursary (est. \$3.0 million).

11. Support for improvements to the student experience

- In response, approval will be sought at FPC to renew the Quality Money program for a three-year period - 2023-2024, 2024-25 and 2025-26 and to index the base amount by the annual domestic tuition fee increase in each of the subsequent years.
- In 2023-24 Quality Money is proposed to increase by 5.4 percent, or \$127,817.88 from \$2,366,997.81 in 2022-23 to \$2,494,815.69 in 2023-24.

12. Expanded support to address issues of student food security

- The University of Calgary has raised over \$600k to support food security in the last four years; Student and Enrolment Services added just under \$100k in recent years.
- The Nourish to Flourish working group has been established to create a three-year rolling action plan to ensure a strategic and measurable approach to supporting food security efforts moving forward.

13. Address student feedback from tuition consultations and provide details on decision-making related to final proposals

- In response, this document provides a summary of the recommendations made by the SU and GSA as a result of the feedback received through the tuition consultation process and includes a detailed response to each of these recommendations and how they have impacted the final proposal.
- This summary will be shared with the students' councils in advance of the FPC meeting.