



Council of Alberta University Students

Tuition Policy

Policy #05-01

Passed: August 8, 2011

Expires: August 8, 2014

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has the duty to fund the cost of a post-secondary education system that has the capacity for all eligible individuals to participate given the increased importance of an educated populace and the growing demands of an emerging knowledge economy; and

WHEREAS the current tuition levels and costs of obtaining a post-secondary education are contrary to the values of a public post-secondary education system and should ultimately be lower; and

WHEREAS it is essential that Government of Alberta craft a policy recognizing the need to alleviate the financial burdens borne by Alberta's students and families in accessing the post-secondary education system.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Alberta University Students advocate for a tuition policy that:

- a) demands long-term, sustainable base operating funding for our universities that will be protected from negative changes in our government's financial situation;
- b) protects tuition from increasing due to fluctuations in base funding grants to the university from the government;
- c) ensures predictable tuition and fees;
- d) has as its primary indicator of tuition levels the ability of individual students to pay without having to resort to loans;
- e) recognizes that tuition is only one of the costs when pursuing a post-secondary education;
- f) recognizes that the main determinant of affordability in our post-secondary education system is the overall cost to the individual, not the availability of financing options; and
- g) ensures that no student will ever be denied the opportunity to pursue a post-secondary education because of their inability to pay.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of Alberta University Students advocate to the Government of Alberta to legislate a policy on tuition fees that:

- a) provides strict guidance to an institution's ability to set tuition, including annual and ultimate limits on the maximum amount of tuition fees that can be levied on students;
- b) places the annual and ultimate limits on the maximum amount of tuition fees within legislation rather than regulation; and
- c) requires post-secondary institutions to provide to the Board of Governors of the institution, the Auditor General of Alberta and the Minister of Advanced Education a detailed public plan on how additional tuition revenues will be spent.