



## Student Budget Committee

Wednesday, November 15, 2016

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., University Centre, Room 441

**Attendees:** Brenda Whiteside; Ryan Shoot; Rocky Narang; Patrice Bigaignon; Nathan Lehotsky; Hesham Farag; Nebojsa Hrnjez; Christy Barnes; Brandan McDougall; Tori Belwood, Christopher Callaghan, Deluchini Sivagnana Suntharam  
**Guests:** Manuealla Sheehy (Student Financial Services), Cathy Beattie and Karen Menard (Institutional Analysis and Research), Deanna McQuarrie (Registrarial Services)

## Meeting Notes

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### 1. Review Meeting Notes:

No amendments were made to the previous meeting notes.

### 2. Rumors:

The Committee asked about the following rumors/questions:

- a) What will be the cost of the new labs in McNaughton? **The Budget for lab renovations and building renovations (HVAC, windows, roof, plumbing) is \$13.75M.**
- b) While there be a new residence? A new residence is not planned at this time. We are still able to meet our first year residence guarantee and do not have a large wait list from returning students. If we continue to grow, we will need to do a residence review.
- c) Is there a possibility to use solar panels in the new renovations in the University Centre? It was responded that this is not a good building for solar panels. Ryan will take the comment regarding a desire for more solar panels back to the Sustainability Committee.
- d) Is it true that students don't have to pay OSAP back until they begin making a salary of \$25,000.00 or more? It was responded that this will be covered in the discussion
- e) Will there be more parking spaces? There is no plan at this time to add parking spaces. The hope is to encourage more sustainable transportation usage. Parking Services reviews parking usage on a regular basis and on any day there are spots available. Hint – look at the lot beside south residence or across from the stadium.

**Action: Ryan Shoot to let the Sustainability Committee know that there is an interest in Solar Panels.**

The above questions will be answered at the next meeting.

## Presentation(s)

### 3. Government Issues: Tuition, Enrollment Planning, and the Funding Framework:

## **Presentations will be forwarded**

Manny Sheehy provided an overview of financial aid available to students

Cathy Beattie provided information on comparative tuition

Deanna McQuarie spoke to the move of the government to move to a net-tuition model.

During the presentations the following questions and answers occurred:

### **Tuition:**

1. Comparing tuition fees is different is difficult as you are not always comparing apples to apples. For instance a Masters program could be a one-year course only, a two-year was ceases etc. It was also cautioned regarding examining and ancillary fees because it depends on how it is reported. For instance the University of Guelph includes a fee such as the bus pass with in ancillary fees but in other schools it might be reported as tuition. Overall however, given the governmental constraints placed on tuition increases, Guelph falls in the middle of the pack.
2. International tuition is not regulated [i.e., Universities can charge whatever they want]. With respect to international tuition, Guelph's tuition is lower than most in the province.
3. Tuition Framework – It was reported that we have no new information. Hopefully something in late December or January. Rumour mill is not to expect radical changes.

### **Financial Aid**

1. OSAP not designed to cover full cost. The plan is designed on the expectation that every student will bring 3,000 to the table. Feds are moving that way as well.
2. Lots of different grants and tons of different scenarios so hard to say what the impact is on each student.
3. 30% tuition rebate is 30% of the average arts and science tuition. So, for differentiated programs like Engineering, less than 30%.
4. The Ontario Student Opportunity Grant was a refund and is going away but will be re-packaged. The government is trying to make the system easier – lots of improvements. Students are getting money quicker than before and now only one loan agreement.
5. A new grant coming but is re-packaging. But there are also improvements - grants and loans available to more students and changes are coming to required parental income to the better.
6. Last year, the University spent 36M on financial support.
7. It was remarked that students need to know about the opportunities. It was noted that they did have a financial literacy fair which went well. SFS is looking to hire a communication coordinator that could help get the message out. It was suggested to try a cool video.
8. SFS does not keep data on students who withdraw due to financial need. This would be helpful.

### **Net Tuition Model**

1. Government is moving to a net tuition billing; students will get an estimate of their net cost which includes OSAP, scholarships, university grants etc. at the time of offer. Very good for students but tons of complexity for universities.

## Items for the Report

### 4. Comments, questions, concerns, and/or recommendations for the report:

- Guelph tuition is in the middle of the pack for domestic and lower for international.
- Continue to educate students on financial aid opportunities
- Net tuition positive idea but huge impact on university business
- Commend government for attempting to make system easier and for improvements.

## Future Meetings

### 5. Identify Future Presentations:

- Next meeting, alumni and research grants/giving

As time had run out, the meeting concluded.

## Meeting Schedule

1. Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.; UC 441 (Dinner): Grants and Alumni giving
2. Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in UC424 (Treats)