



STUDENT BUDGET COMMITTEE

Presentation to the Finance Committee

Who We Are

- 12 students representing:
 - College Governments
 - CSA
 - GSA
 - Interhall Council
 - Special Status Groups
- Bi-Weekly Meetings
- Open meeting format
- Student initiated agenda
- Secretarial support from the Student Affairs Office

Presentations to Date

- Understanding the Budget (John Miles)
- Government Context – Tuition, Funding Formula, SMA (Charlotte Yates)
- Research Funding (Malcolm Campbell)
- Alumni Donations (Karen Bertrand)
- Financial Aid, Comparative Tuition and Net Tuition (Manny Sheehy and Deanna McQuarrie)
- New Buildings and Funding (Don O’Leary)
- Comparative Data (Karen Menard)
- Ancillary Fees (Brenda Whiteside)
- Parking (Ian Weir)
- Mental Health (Brenda Whiteside)

Presentations Continued

- Bettered Understandings of:
 - Complexity of budget;
 - Addressing competing needs (quality, accessibility, sustainability);
 - Interconnectedness of the University and Provincial government
- Understand the uncertainty due to evolving government policies

Accessibility

- Tuition
 - Presentation still to come
- Ancillary fees
 - High at Guelph
 - Services offered
 - Collectively Beneficial

Accessibility

- Guiding Principle
 - *working in partnership with government and students, all qualified individuals should be able to attend university regardless of their financial status.*
- Reality
 - Not there yet

Accessibility Concerns

- Potential impact of a corridor funding system on non-STEM disciplines
 - Government – interest in growth is in STEM disciplines
- Effectiveness of University financial aid programs

Accessibility - Recommendations

1. There to be advocacy for Non-STEM disciplines, to encourage the comprehensiveness of the University;
2. Should tuition increase, there needs to be an investment in student financial aid in the form of bursaries;
3. There to be an increase in awareness of student financial aid in the form of scholarships;
4. That Alumni Affairs be encouraged to meet with donors to broaden terms of existing scholarships, to make them more accessible to students;
5. There to be attention directed at developing more on-campus jobs for students demonstrating financial need;
6. There to be an increase in financial aid available to international students.

Quality

- Enrolment Strategy
 - Presentation still to come
 - Impact of increasing enrolment on resources
- Supportive of the focus on high impact teaching practices
- Supportive of experiential learning outcomes

Quality - Concerns

- Measuring the impact of experiential learning
 - Need a way to track the values of learning outcomes
 - Comprehensive ways to measure
 - Government's shifted focus to them

Other

- Pleased to see the check for donations and academic freedom is protected
- Appreciate the sustainability focus regarding transportation
 - Reaching a point where more parking is needed though
- Need to continue to find ways to inform students about budget

Advocacy

- We recognize that:
 1. The provincial grant has not kept pace with inflation;
 2. The proportion of the cost paid by students continues to grow;
 3. Quality is under attack as universities attempt to grow their ways out of budget challenges;
 4. There is a growing trend in a need for more attention to mental health programming and care on university campuses.

Advocacy

- We recommend that the University advocate for:
 1. Inflationary increases to the grant;
 2. A tuition strategy to ensure any increases are accompanied by a corresponded financial aid program;
 3. Continued enhancements to the OSAP program;
 - A. Including, in particular, more grants and less loans.
 4. Integrative funding for mental health initiatives
 - A. Community partnership



Thank you!

- Future Presentations
- Questions, Comments, Concerns?