



## Student Budget Committee

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., University Centre, Level 4, Room 441

**Present:** Brenda Whiteside (recorder); Patrice Bigaignon; Deluchini Sivagnanasuntharam; Christy Barnes; Brandan McDougall, Rocky Narang; Christopher Callaghan, Sierra Harris; and Keely Kavcic. Also present, Charlotte Yates

## Minutes

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### 1. Review Meeting Notes

No changes were made to the notes from the previous meeting.

### 2. Rumors

No rumours were presented.

## Presentation(s)

### 3. Budget Assumptions, SMA and Tuition

Charlotte Yates presented on the budget assumptions, SMA, and tuition (attached). The following was confirmed in the discussion:

- The 3% is not the rate of inflation but a number that the government has specified.
- There is the potential that the number of students accepted by the sector under the corridor system may actually decline. As such there is a tension between the government's goal of increasing access to postsecondary education and their desire to manage enrolment.
- While there has been quite a bit of talk about a decline in applicant student demographics, actually due to increasing immigration the numbers in the GTA are growing.
- It is clear that system is going through some significant changes and it is anticipated that things will evolve as we start to work through the changes.
- The government is still discussing KPIs. Once they have been finalized we will then begin to work on our own.
- It was noted that as we begin to consider increasing the number of international student we need to recognize that they have more financial and mental health issues. Charlotte responded that more financial aid is being provided for international students and that the University is entering into a larger discussion regarding an international strategy. This strategy will include all of the factors necessary when looking to increasing international enrolment.
- With respect to tuition, the University is going to try to take it advantage of the full 3% ceiling. This is important for maintaining quality.

- It was noted that many students don't understand the complexity regarding tuition and quality and simply move to a stance of freezing tuition. It was recommended that the University think of a communication strategy to make this discussion easier for students to understand. Examples included some simple infographics or small videos.
- It was urged that we promote scholarships and bursaries more. It was also suggested however that we need to get a better handle of exactly how much money is being left on the table.
- It was suggested that student financial services could develop a website where students could search scholarships according to their major. An idea would be that they could create a profile of themselves and then the system would generate which scholarships and awards were available to them.

It was asked if the committee needed additional information. The following was requested:

- administrative costs and how they compare to other universities.

#### 4. Items for the Report

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

It was agreed that the following should go into the report:

- support for their increase to doctoral programs given the need to be competitive
- a need to better promote scholarships and communicate budget

#### 6. Other

It was noted that the committee is going to need to start drafting the report for the Finance committee and the Board of Governors. Brenda Whiteside noted that she would send out the previous Finance report for the committee to review. It was also agreed that the committee would still like to meet with Hospitality Services and Athletics. Committee members also asked to be sent the URL for all of the reports.

### Meeting Schedule

1. Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.; UC 441 (Treats)
2. Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in UC424 (Treats)
3. Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.; UC 441 (Dinner)