



3-04 South Academic Building (SAB)
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G7
Tel: 780.492.4951
boardchair@ualberta.ca
www.governance.ualberta.ca

December 3, 2013

A Statement from the Board Chair Regarding Undergraduate International Tuition

Thank you for your letters about proposed increases to undergraduate international tuition. Although recommended for approval by the Academic Planning Committee and the Board Finance and Property Committee, it has not yet come before the full board for final approval. It is important that I hear your concerns as the proposal moves through the governance process.

I want to assure you that this proposal has been given full consideration throughout the process to date—a process that includes student representation. As you know, the University of Alberta is facing many difficult financial decisions in light of a budget reduction of tens of millions of dollars, few of which can be carried out without significant hardship or disruption to many individuals. We are not making these decisions lightly.

In the case of this particular proposal, a number of factors are being considered. One of the most critical is the fact that neither domestic nor international students cover the full operating expenditure of a full-load equivalent (FLE) student. In 2012-2013, the approximate full cost per FLE was \$27,308. One domestic student, who generated total revenue based on the Campus Alberta grant, tuition and fees, brought in \$22,259, while one international undergraduate student, who generated international differential, tuition and fee revenue, brought in \$19,042. We depend on other sources of revenue (such as market modifiers, donations and endowment returns) to make up the difference for the benefit of all. As the gap between what is brought in and what is actually needed increases each year, we are now considering raising the tuition for undergraduate international students of five per cent. We have also looked at the increase in our overall operating costs in considering how to cover and enhance services we offer.

In the period before the board meets on Dec. 13, I will keep your requests in mind and weigh your concerns against the other considerations that must also come into our decision-making on this issue. My thanks again for writing, ensuring that I am fully informed of your thinking.

Sincerely,

Doug Goss
Chair, Board of Governors