



May 13, 2021

Purpose

To make recommendations to the Provost and Vice-President Academic that support the design of a robust, enhanced, engaged, transparent annual tuition consultation process at the University of Saskatchewan (USask).

Membership

Melisa Just, Interim Deputy Provost – Chair
Patti McDougall, Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Experience
Jennifer Beck, Director, Resource Allocation and Planning, Institutional Planning and Assessment
Rifat Zahan, GSA President
Tasnim Jaisee, USSU President

Timeline

The Working Group will perform the required work between May and June 2021, making final recommendations to the Provost and Vice-President Academic by the end of June 2021.

Parameters

Following from the Tuition and Fees Authorization Policy (Appendix D), the desirable outcome of the Working Group is to create a consultation process that contributes to a shared understanding of tuition and the tuition rate setting activity at USask. This consultation process should include seeking feedback on the quality of education, the student experience and the supports that are being provided. It is also desirable to hear from students about where incremental investments should be made when new financial resources become available for investment. Negotiating annual tuition rates is not within scope of the Working Group's focus nor is the development of a consultation process that includes negotiation of rates as a central tenet. Robust discussion of topics is expected, and consensus amongst members of the Working Group is desirable with regard to the recommendations that go forward but is not required.

Areas to Explore

Members of the Working Group will discuss the following areas:

Timing of consultations

- *Is there a specific timeframe or time of year when it would be most beneficial for these consultations to occur?*
- *In what ways (how) might the timeline around consultation be tied to the timeline for decision making regarding rate setting?*



Format of consultations

- *What does a well-crafted consultation process look like?*
- *What process would optimize student engagement in consultation?*

Information to be shared to support consultation

- *What kind of information would be helpful for the university to provide to students to support a shared understanding of finances, budget and tuition matters?*
- *What does predictability mean or look like for students?*

Mechanisms for sharing information about consultation

- *What are the preferred mechanisms for sharing information with students throughout and following the consultation process?*

Format of report summarizing consultations

- *What should the goals of the Tuition Consultation Report be?*

Outcomes for the Working Group

Recommendations to the Provost and Vice-President Academic on the consultation process to support annual tuition rate setting at USask, including the timing, format, information and communication to support the consultation process.

Pre-reading Requirements

Prior to the first meeting of the Working Group, it is preferred that all members read the reference documents listed below.

Reference Documents

UBC Consultation website: <https://consultations.students.ubc.ca/>

UBC Consultation reports: <https://consultations.students.ubc.ca/reports>

UBC Process: https://bog3.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2021/02/6_2021.02_Tuition-Student-Consultation-Update.pdf

Tuition and Fees Authorization Policy (in particular, Appendix D):

<https://policies.usask.ca/policies/operations-and-general-administration/tuition-and-fees-authorization.php>