



TO: **Business Board**

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DATE: For meeting on April 27, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: 3

## ITEM IDENTIFICATION

- **Faculty of Arts & Science proposal to implement a universal program fee.**

## JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION

The Business Board recommends matters related to tuition fees to Governing Council for approval.

## OTHER ACTION TAKEN

The proposal was approved by the Arts & Science Faculty Council on April 6, 2009.

## HIGHLIGHTS

The Faculty of Arts and Science, St. George, (FAS) is proposing to move to universally apply tuition on the basis of a flat program fee for all full-time students. The proposed change is described in the attached document, which was approved by the A&Sc Faculty Council with the amendments described below.

Currently, FAS assesses tuition fees on a per-course basis, with the exception of programs in Computer Science and Commerce. The attached document proposes that a program fee be applied to all full-time students, that is, to students who take 3.0 full-time course equivalents (FCEs) or more per year, starting in Fall, 2009. The program fee will represent tuition for up to 6 courses per year. A grand-parenting provision will apply to current in-program students, who will continue to be charged on a per-course fee basis until they graduate.

The amended motion approved by Arts & Science Faculty Council proposes that for the first two years, 2009-10 and 2010-11, the program fee will apply to affected students with a course load of 4.0, 5.0 or 6.0 full-course equivalents (FCEs). Beginning in September 2011 all students who entered the University in September 2009 or later who are taking 3.0 to 6.0 FCEs will be charged on a program fee basis. Grand parenting for students who are currently in-program will end in 2013/14. That is, in 2014/15 and beyond, all A&Sc students on the St. George campus taking 3.0 to 6.0 FCEs will be charged a program fee.

The introduction of a program fee fits well with the Faculty's curriculum renewal initiative, which shifts the students' focus from individual courses to a complete program, with new

breadth and depth components. It also encourages students to take more courses each year, and thus to complete their program in a more timely manner. Any additional revenue arising from government grants and tuition fees because of the shift to the program fee approach will be used to strengthen the learning experience of students in the Faculty.

The proposed program fee will be implemented initially on the St. George campus, providing time for UTM and UTSC to examine the implications of this approach to their students and their programs.

## **FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

The introduction of a program fee is likely to encourage many students who are currently taking 3 or 4 courses to increase the number of courses they take per year, resulting in a higher student FTE count. Once the proposal is fully phased in and reaches steady state the increase in the FTE count is projected to be in the range 854 to 1683. This means that the program fee approach will lead to additional tuition revenue and an increase in the government grant. Depending on the degree of course intensification and the associated expenses, the incremental net revenue to the Faculty is projected to be in the range \$8.9M to \$14.7M. The proposal includes additional funds for financial aid to ensure the University continues to meet both its own student aid policy as well as the Provincial access guarantee.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Be it Recommended

Subject to the understanding that there will be regular review and scrutiny of the model, with regular reporting to Arts and Science Council and with adjustments as required,

THAT the proposal to charge tuition fees for full-time Arts and Science students on the St. George Campus on the basis of a program fee instead of a per-course fee be approved.