

FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: University Affairs Board

SPONSOR: Professor Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost, Students
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PRESENTER: See Sponsor
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 24, 2017 for May 1, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: 3(b)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees – Student Society Fees
UTSC Student Society Proposals for Fee Increases

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Section 5.1 of the Campus Affairs Committee Terms of Reference lists student societies and compulsory non-academic incidental fees among the Committee’s areas of responsibility.

Sections 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 provide that compulsory non-academic incidental fees for representative student committees and divisional student societies “are approved by the UTSC Council on the recommendation of the UTSC Campus Affairs Committee.”

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. UTSC Campus Affairs Committee [For Recommendation] (February 7, 2017)
2. UTSC Campus Council [For Approval] (March 1, 2017)
3. Executive Committee [For Confirmation] (March 28, 2017)
4. **University Affairs Board [For Information] (May 1, 2017)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Requests for changes to existing student society fees and/or the establishment of new fees may be brought forward to the University Affairs Board on one or more occasions each year.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The following student societies have requested changes to fees charged on their behalf by the University:

Scarborough Campus Community Radio (operating as “Fusion Radio”)

Scarborough Campus Students’ Union

Additional information is provided in the attached memorandum from Desmond Pouyat, Dean of Student Affairs.

The requests were reviewed by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students in light of the requirements of the *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees* and are found to be in compliance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no net implications for the campus’ operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

The documentation is presented for information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Memo to UTSC Campus Affairs Committee:
Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees – UTSC Student Society Proposals for Fee Increases

TO: Members of the Campus Council

FROM: Desmond Pouyat, Dean of Student Affairs

DATE: March 1, 2017

**SUBJECT: Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees –
UTSC Student Society Proposals for Fee Increases**

Requests from two UTSC student societies for the fee changes listed below have been received by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students (OVPS), which manages the University-wide administrative processes related to student society fee requests. OVPS works with my office as necessary and keeps me informed with respect to the fee requests received from UTSC student societies.

The applications have been reviewed in light of the requirements of the *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees*. The requests below are found to be in compliance with these requirements and are recommended for approval.

Requests for fee increases from student societies must meet a number of requirements. Section B.4. of the *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees* outlines the University's general expectations:

Requests to change the fee collected on behalf of a student society and requests for new fees shall be approved only when evidence has been presented that the request has been authorized by due constitutional process in the organization. The procedures to request approval of a new fee or an increase to an existing fee shall be published in the Handbook for Student Societies.

Cost of Living Increases

- (a) *Where the amount of an increase in the fee charged is not greater than the year-over-year change in consumer prices for Ontario as measured by Statistics Canada (December-over-December) as of December 31 of the previous year, the request must be supported by the results of a previous referendum approving the principle of a cost-of-living adjustment. In special circumstances (e.g., when a portion of a student society fee is designated for a health plan or capital project), other inflation indexes or predetermined inflation factors may be used, provided that the request is supported by the results of a previous referendum approving the use of the specific inflation index or predetermined inflation factor.*

Referendum Requirement

- (a) *Where the amount of an increase in the fee charged is greater than the year-over-year change in consumer prices, the request must be supported by the majority of the society's members voting in a recent referendum.*

The procedures for handling fee change requests (from the *Handbook for Student Societies* published by the OVPS) also provide that requests for a fee increase must be supplied with the following:

Evidence that the request to change the existing fee (or to institute a new charge) has been authorized by due constitutional process of the organization. This evidence should include a copy of or specific reference to the section of the society's constitution which related to the mechanism for fee changes, minutes of the meeting at which the resolution to request the change was passed, details and results of any referenda related to the subject which may have been held within the division, and publicity given the matter to ensure that those who may be affected by the change are aware of the proposal, including size and purpose of the increase, and have had the opportunity to make their views known.

Normally, the administration intersects with these processes at two points. Initially, student societies are asked to seek advice from the OVPS on the wording of the referendum questions (with respect to clarity and technical language). The second point occurs after the referendum when the student society makes the formal request for a fee increase. The recommendation for approval is derived from the assessment of whether or not the society has met the requirements established in the *Policy* and relevant procedures.

Occasionally, the OVPS is asked to look into complaints about referendum procedures and compliance with relevant portions of the society's constitution and/or by-laws. The results of these investigations play a significant role in the assessment of the request and the recommendation for approval.

The assessment of requests for fee increases is normally based upon the following expectations:

1. The student society must make the request in a manner consistent with the *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees* and the University's procedures for increases to student society fees;
2. When required, there must be a positive result in a referendum for a fee increase (special conditions established by the society's by-laws, such as quorum, must also be met);
3. The referendum question itself should be clear and provide enough information to students in order to gain a full understanding of the implications of the question and proposed fee for them;
4. The referendum must be held in a fair manner, advertised and promoted in a reasonable manner, and the members of each organization should be given a reasonable opportunity to vote; and

5. Each organization must comply with the provisions of its own by-laws, rules of procedure, and specific policies and procedures approved by the society's board or council.

Societies which have previously received approval (by referendum) from their members for an annual cost of living increase in the society's portion of the fee may request increases, upon approval by the society's board or council, of up to the previous Ontario December-over-December cost of living increase (consumer price index) calculated by Statistics Canada. The December 2016 consumer price index for Ontario was 2%.

As outlined in the excerpt from the *Policy* above, where members of a society have given consent (through a previous referendum) to the concept of inflationary increases according to a specific inflation factor or measure, this inflation factor may be used. For example, the Scarborough Campus Students' Union may request increases in both the Dental and Accident & Prescription Drug Insurance Plan portions of their fee of up to 10%.

It is important to note that when dealing with a student society request for a fee change, it is the society's own constitution, by-laws, or established policies that set the standards for acceptable results in referenda. In some cases, society constitutions establish a minimum voter turnout in order to consider a referendum result to be valid. The University has not established additional criteria with respect to valid referendum voter turnout.

In addition, with respect to both requests for increases based upon the results of a referendum, and increases which require only the approval of the society's board or council, the administration relies on the assurances of student societies that due constitutional processes and fair procedures have been followed.

Scarborough Campus Community Radio (operating as "Fusion Radio")

Background

In the fall/winter of 2016-17, the Fusion Radio fee was \$4.85 per session, charged to all full-time undergraduate UTSC students.

Requests

- i. An increase in the society portion of the fee

A referendum was held on September 30, 2016 and October 3, 2016, in which UTSC students were asked to support an increase in the society portion of the fee. The wording of the question is as follows:

Please indicate your support in the bottom of this section by checking off in pen or marker one of the two option circles, either 'yes' or 'no'.

Scarborough Campus Community Radio Inc. (SCCR, also known as Fusion Radio) is seeking consent from its members to increase its student fee. The proposed increase is for

\$8 per term, from \$4.85 to \$12.85. The increase would come into effect in the 2017 Summer academic session (for registered full-time undergraduate students at the University of Toronto Scarborough). To fund the expansion of Fusion Radio and obtain over-the-air broadcasting, as well as increase the quality and accessibility of a range of services that we provide for the University, campus groups and students, we require more adequate funding. Help us realize the dream of a legitimate campus radio station at the University of Toronto Scarborough, as well as increased opportunities for our students and community members.

Prior to voting you may obtain more information including by-laws, budgeting and financial details, programming and policy directives, and have questions answered by visiting us online at fusionradio.ca or by emailing the Chief Returning Officer (cro@fusionradio.ca) and/or SCCR President (president@fusionradio.ca).

A meeting of members is being held on the first day of voting, September 30th, 2016, at 2pm. Please check online for location.

REFERENDUM QUESTION

Do you support the increase of Scarborough Campus Community Radio's fee to \$12.85 per academic session as of Summer 2017 onward?

YES

NO

Once you have made your selection, please fold this ballot and place it inside the designated ballot box to preserve its secrecy.

The results of the referendum are as follows:

YES:	43	Approximate Number of Eligible Voters:	10,526
NO:	16	Voter Turnout:	0.6%
SPOILED:	0		
TOTAL:	59		

The society has submitted the required documentation, and has signed a declaration certifying that the society has acted in an open and democratic fashion, and in a manner consistent with its constitution and/or by-laws.

In the course of considering this request for a fee increase, the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students was advised of one complaint concerning the referendum for an increase. A summary of the complaint received by the Office (and how it was adjudicated by Fusion Radio) is as follows:

Complaint	Response
Low voter turnout	Fusion Radio responded that they share concerns relating to low voter turnout, but added that their by-laws have no minimum threshold for referenda or plebiscites.
Concerns of inadequate publicity	Fusion Radio responded that they did promote the referendum across a variety of media (including materials in The Underground, The Varsity, on-campus posters and signage, and notices on Fusion’s website and social media accounts).

Summary of Changes:

Student Societies	Summer 2017		Fall 2017		Winter 2018		Summer 2016		Fall 2016		Winter 2017	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Fusion Radio (Scarborough Campus Community Radio)												
Society (cost of living increases permitted without referendum – approved spring 2007)	12.85		12.85		12.85		4.85		4.85		4.85	
TOTAL	\$ 12.85		\$ 12.85		\$ 12.85		\$ 4.85		\$ 4.85		\$ 4.85	
Change From Previous Year	+164.9%		+164.9%		+164.9%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	
	\$ 8.00		\$ 8.00		\$ 8.00		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	

Recommendation:

THAT beginning in the summer 2017 session, the Scarborough Campus Community Radio (operating as Fusion Radio) fee be increased as follows: (a) an increase of \$8.00 in the society portion of the fee.

If approved, the total Fusion Radio fee will be \$12.85 per session (summer, fall, and winter), charged to full-time undergraduate students at UTSC (full-time only).

Scarborough Campus Students’ Union

Background:

In fall/winter 2016-17, the total SCSU fee was \$387.01 per session for full-time University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) students (\$43.78 part-time). The fee includes \$25.86 per session for the society’s portion of the fee (\$1.61 part-time), \$38.54 for the Student Centre portion of the fee (\$11.54 part-time), \$7.72 for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)/Canadian Federation of Students – Ontario (CFS-O) portion of the fee, \$71.27 per session for the Accident & Prescription Drug Insurance Plan portion of the fee, \$85.97 per session for the Dental Plan portion of the fee, \$0.75 per session for the Student Refugee Program portion of the fee (\$0.25 part-time), and \$151.42 (\$30.28 part-time) for the UTSC Sports & Recreation Complex Levy.

Requests:

- i. *A cost of living increase in the Society portion of the fee.*

At its meeting on February 27, 2017, the SCSU Board will consider a resolution to request a cost of living increase to the society portion of the fee.

In the course of considering this request, the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students has not received any complaints concerning the process leading up to the request.

- ii. *A cost of living increase to the Student Centre Capital levy portion of the fee.*

At its meeting on February 27, 2017, the SCSU Board will consider a resolution to request a cost of living increase to the Student Centre Capital levy portion of the fee.

In the course of considering this request, the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students has not received any complaints concerning the process leading up to the request.

- iii. *A cost of living increase to the CFS/CFS-O portion of the fee.*

At its meeting on February 27, 2017, the SCSU Board will consider a resolution to request a cost of living increase to the CFS/CFS-O portion of the fee.

In the course of considering this request, the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students has not received any complaints concerning the process leading up to the request.

- iv. *An increase in the Accident & Prescription Drug Insurance Plan portion of the fee.*

In accordance with the original referendum question, SCSU may request increases to the Accident & Prescription Drug Insurance Plan portion of the fee of up to 10% upon approval of a resolution by the SCSU Board.

At its meeting on February 27, 2017, the SCSU Board will consider a resolution to request up to a 10% increase to the Accident & Prescription Drug Insurance Plan portion of the fee.

In the course of considering this request, the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students has not received any complaints concerning the process leading up to the request.

- v. *An increase in the Dental Plan portion of the fee.*

In accordance with the original referendum question, SCSU may request increases to the Dental Plan portion of the fee of up to 10% upon approval of a resolution by the SCSU Board.

At its meeting on February 27, 2017, the SCSU Board will consider a resolution to request up to a 10% increase to the Dental Plan portion of the fee.

In the course of considering this request, the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students has not received any complaints concerning the process leading up to the request.

- vi. *Continuation of the Refugee Student Program portion of the fee.*

At its meeting on February 27, 2017, the SCSU Board will consider a resolution to continue the Refugee Student Program portion of the fee.

In the course of considering this request, the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students has not received any complaints concerning the process leading up to the request.

vii. *An increase in the UTSC Sports & Recreation Complex Levy.*

Pursuant to the provisions of the original referendum question, approved in the spring of 2010, annual increases to the Levy of 4% over a 25-year period following the implementation of the summer 2014 increase have been approved. The referendum question is considered an agreement among the students, SCSU, and the University, in respect of the Levy.

Summary of Changes

Student Societies	Summer 2017		Fall 2017		Winter 2018		Summer 2016		Fall 2016		Winter 2017	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Scarborough Campus Students' Union												
Society (cost of living increases permitted without referendum – approved fall 2002)	25.86	1.61	26.38	1.64	26.38	1.64	25.43	1.58	25.86	1.61	25.86	1.61
Refugee Student Program (through 2017-18; SCSU Board approval of continuation)	0.75	0.25	0.75	0.25	0.75	0.25	0.75	0.25	0.75	0.25	0.75	0.25
Student Centre (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2001)	38.54	11.35	39.31	11.77	39.31	11.77	37.90	11.35	38.54	11.54	38.54	11.54
Women's Centre (refundable)	1.50		1.50		1.50		1.50		1.50		1.50	
Downtown Legal Services (refundable)	0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50	
Orientation (refundable)	0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50	
Blue Sky Solar Car Team (refundable)	0.13		0.13		0.13		0.13		0.13		0.13	
Day Care Subsidy (refundable)	0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50	
Wheelchair Accessibility Projects	1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00	
Refugee Student Fund					0.30						0.30	
Health Initiatives in Developing Countries (refundable)	0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25	
Foster Children Program	0.05		0.05		0.05		0.05		0.05		0.05	
U of T Environmental Resource Network (refundable)	0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25	
Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) & CFS-Ontario (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved fall 2002)	7.72		7.87		7.87		7.59		7.72		7.72	
Frontier College Students for Literacy - UTSC (refundable; fall and winter only)			0.50	0.10	0.50	0.10			0.50	0.10	0.50	0.10
UTSC Sports & Recreation Complex Levy (increases up to 4% permitted without referendum - approved spring of 2010; increased to \$140.00 full-time/\$28.00 part-time in summer 2014 through summer 2039)	157.48	31.49	157.48	31.49	157.48	31.49	145.60	29.12	151.42	30.28	151.42	30.28
Accident & Prescription Drug Insurance Plan (including administration fee and sales tax; refundable; increases up to 10% permitted without referendum - approved spring of 1998)			78.40		78.40				71.27		71.27	
Dental Plan (including administration fee and sales tax; refundable; increases up to 10% permitted without referendum - approved spring of 1998)			94.57		94.57				85.97		85.97	
TOTAL	\$ 235.03	\$ 44.70	\$ 410.24	\$ 45.25	\$ 410.24	\$ 45.25	\$ 221.95	\$ 42.30	\$ 387.01	\$ 43.78	\$ 387.01	\$ 43.78
Change From Previous Year	+5.9%	+5.7%	+6.0%	+3.4%	+6.0%	+3.4%	+3.6%	+4.2%	+10.0%	+6.7%	+10.0%	+6.7%
	\$ 13.08	\$ 2.40	\$ 23.23	\$ 1.47	\$ 23.23	\$ 1.47	\$ 7.65	\$ 1.72	\$ 35.15	\$ 2.74	\$ 35.15	\$ 2.74

Recommendations

THAT beginning in the Summer 2017 session, the SCSU fee be increased as follows: an increase of \$6.06 per session (\$1.21 part-time) in the UTSC Sports and Recreation Centre Levy portion of the fee; and

subject to confirmation of approval of the following fee increase proposals by the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU) Board of Directors on February 27, 2017,

THAT beginning in the Fall 2017 session, the SCSU fee be increased as follows: (a) an increase of \$0.52 per session in the Society membership portion of the fee (\$0.03 part-time), (b) an increase of \$0.77 per session in the Student Centre portion of the fee (\$0.23 part-time), (c) an

increase of \$0.15 per session (full-time only) in the CFS/CFS-O portion of the fee, (d) an increase of up to \$7.13 (full-time only) per session in the Accident & Prescription Drug Insurance Plan portion of the fee, and (e) an increase of up to \$8.60 (full-time only) per session in the Dental Plan portion of the fee, and (f) continuation of the Student Refugee Program portion of the fee through the 2017-18 academic period.

If approved, the total Fall/Winter SCSU fee will be up to \$410.24 per session (\$45.25 part-time), charged to all UTSC undergraduate students.