

FOR INFORMATION**PUBLIC****OPEN SESSION**

TO: University Affairs Board

SPONSOR: Professor Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost, Students
CONTACT INFO: Phone (416) 978-3870/E-mail vp.students@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: see sponsor
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 23, 2018 for April 30, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 1 (a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees – Student Society Fees
UTM 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 UTM Council on the recommendation of the UTM Campus Affairs Committee."

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. UTM Campus Affairs Committee [For Recommendation] (February 13, 2018)
2. UTM Campus Council [For Approval] (March 8, 2018)
3. Executive Committee [For Confirmation] (March 27, 2018)
4. **University Affairs Board [For Information] (April 30, 2018)**

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:

University of Toronto Mississauga Association of Graduate Students (UTMAGS)

University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (Legally, Erindale College Students' Union)

Additional information is provided in the attached memorandum from Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs.

The requests have been 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. Therefore, the requests are recommended for approval.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

The documentation is presented for information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

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

TO: Members of the Campus Council

FROM: Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs

DATE: February 6, 2018

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

Requests from two UTM 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 UTM 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

- (b) *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, 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 1.5%.

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 University of Toronto Mississauga Association of Graduate Students may request increases in the Mississauga Transit U-Pass 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.

University of Toronto Mississauga Association of Graduate Students (UTMAGS)

Background:

In fall/winter 2017-18, the total UTMAGS fee was \$174.87 per session for full-time University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM)-affiliated graduate students. The fee includes \$108.25 per session for the Mississauga U-Pass Program fee (full-time only), and \$66.62 per fall and winter sessions for the Mississauga Summer U-Pass Program fee (full-time only).

Requests:

- i. *An inflationary increase in the Mississauga U-Pass portion of the fee.*

In accordance with the original referendum question, UTMSU may request increases to the Mississauga Transit U-Pass portion of the fee of up to 10% upon approval of a resolution by the UTMAGS Board of Directors.

At its meeting on February 14, 2018, the UTMAGS board will consider a resolution to request an inflationary increase to the Mississauga Transit U-Pass 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. *An inflationary increase in the Mississauga Summer U-Pass portion of the fee.*

In accordance with the original referendum question, UTMAGS may request increases to the Mississauga Summer Transit U-Pass portion of the fee of up to 10% upon approval of a resolution by the UTMAGS Board of Directors.

At its meeting on February 14, 2018, the UTMAGS board will consider a resolution to request an inflationary increase to the Mississauga Transit U-Pass 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.

Summary of Changes

[illegible]

Background:

In fall/winter 2017-18, the total UTMSU fee was \$143.26 per session for full-time University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) students (\$120.95 part-time). The fee includes \$14.64 per session for the society's portion of the fee (\$1.08 part-time), \$0.55 per session for the On Campus First Aid Emergency Response/Erindale College Special Response Team (ECSPERT) fee (\$0.55 part-time), \$1.06 per session for Academic Societies fee (\$1.06 part-time), \$0.58 per session for the Food Bank fee (\$0.58 part-time), \$1.14 per session for the Student Refugee Program (WUSC) (\$1.14 part-time), \$108.28 per session for the Mississauga Transit UPass fee (\$108.28 part-time), and \$66.65 per fall and winter sessions for the Mississauga Academy of Medicine (MAM) Mississauga Transit Summer U-Pass fee (paid by MAM students only).

Requests:

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

At its meeting on February 8, 2018, the UTMSU 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 On Campus First Aid Emergency Response/Erindale College Special Response Team (ECSPERT) portion of the fee.*

At its meeting on February 8, 2018, the UTMSU board will consider a resolution to request a cost of living increase to the ECSPERT 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 Academic Society portion of the fee.*

At its meeting on February 8, 2018, the UTMSU board will consider a resolution to request a cost of living increase to the Academic 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.

- iv. *A cost of living increase to the Food Bank portion of the fee.*

At its meeting on February 8, 2018, the UTMSU board will consider a resolution to request a cost of living increase to the Food Bank 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. *A cost of living increase to the Student Refugee Program (WUSC) portion of the fee.*

At its meeting on February 8, 2018, the UTMSU board will consider a resolution to request a cost of living increase to the Student Refugee Program (WUSC) 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. *An inflationary increase in the Mississauga Transit U-Pass portion of the fee.*

In accordance with the original referendum question, UTMSU may request increases to the Mississauga Transit U-Pass portion of the fee of up to 9% upon approval of a resolution by the UTMSU Board of Directors.

At its meeting on February 8, 2018, the UTMSU board will consider a resolution to request an inflationary increase to the Mississauga Transit U-Pass 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 inflationary increase in the designated portion of the UTMSU fee charged to Mississauga Academy of Medicine (MAM) students for a Mississauga Transit Summer U-Pass to be charged in the Fall and Winter sessions.*

At its meeting on February 8, 2018, the UTMSU board will consider a resolution to request an inflationary increase to the Summer 2018 Mississauga Transit U-Pass 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.

Summary of Changes

Student Societies		Summer 2018		Fall 2018		Winter 2019		Summer 2017		Fall 2017		Winter 2018	
		Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
U of T Mississauga Students' Union (Erindale College Student Union)													
Society (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2006)		14.64	1.08	14.86	1.10	14.86	1.10	14.35	1.06	14.64	1.08	14.64	1.08
Student Centre Levy		12.50	3.75	12.50	3.75	12.50	3.75	12.50	3.75	12.50	3.75	12.50	3.75
On Campus First Aid Emergency Response (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2011)		0.55	0.55	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.54	0.54	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
Blind Duck Pub (refundable)		3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
Club Funding and Resources		1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26
Mississauga Transit Upass (different amount for summer compared to fall and winter; increases up to 9% permitted without referendum - current provisions approved fall of Academic Societies (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2007)		154.50	154.50	116.40	116.40	116.40	116.40	145.07	145.07	108.28	108.28	108.28	108.28
Food Bank (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2009)		1.06	1.06	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.04	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06
Student Refugee Program (cost of living increases permitted without referendum - approved spring 2009)				0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59			0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58
				1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16			1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14
TOTAL		\$ 187.76	\$ 165.45	\$ 151.66	\$ 129.15	\$ 151.66	\$ 129.15	\$ 178.01	\$ 155.97	\$ 143.26	\$ 120.95	\$ 143.26	\$ 120.95
Change From Previous Year		+5.6%	+6.1%	+5.9%	+6.8%	+5.9%	+6.8%	+7.4%	+8.4%	+5.5%	+6.3%	+5.5%	+6.3%
		\$ 9.75	\$ 9.48	\$ 8.40	\$ 8.20	\$ 8.40	\$ 8.20	\$ 12.25	\$ 12.03	\$ 7.46	\$ 7.19	\$ 7.46	\$ 7.19

Note: Mississauga Academy of Medicine Students also pay up to \$72.65 in both the Fall and Winter sessions for a Summer 2019 U-Pass