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OFFICE OF THE VICE-PROVOST, STUDENTS

TO: University Affairs Board

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DATE: January 3, 2005 for January 18, 2005

AGENDA ITEMS: 3(b) and 3(c)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees: Request for Fee Increases – Students' Administrative Council (SAC) and Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The terms of reference of the University Affairs Board provide that the Board approves the establishment of and changes to compulsory non-academic incidental fees including those collected on behalf of student societies.

The administrative procedures are outlined in the *Policy on Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees* and the *Handbook for Student Societies* (published by the Office of Student Affairs). Pursuant to the *Policy*, requests for increases to fees must be supported by due constitutional and fair processes within student societies.

Increases which are greater than the cost of living must be supported by a positive result in a recent referendum. Requests for increases which are less than or equal to the cost of living must be supported by a previous referendum approving annual increases by an established inflation factor.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Requests for changes to existing fees and/or the establishment of new fees are brought forward to the Board on one or more occasions each year. This is the first set of requests on behalf of a student societies brought forward this year.

The requests from SAC and SCSU arise pursuant to a referendum held with the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS) in November 2002 to support

the cost of membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Canadian Federation of Student Ontario (CFS-O). On the basis of the results of the referendum, each of the three student societies requested increases to their fees to support membership in CFS and CFS-O. As a result of an unfavorable assessment of the referendum process, the administration declined to recommend approval of the fee increases. In the absence of such a recommendation, APUS ultimately requested that the Board approve its request for a fee increase. The Board approved this request on June 1, 2004.

Following the approval of the APUS increase, SAC and SCSU have now renewed their requests for increases to their respective fees.

A brief summary of the Board's previous consideration of the item follows:

November 19, 2002

The Interim Vice-Provost, Students, reported verbally that the Office of Student Affairs had received a large number of complaints about the referendum. The Board was in closed session during this verbal report and it is not summarized in the Report of the Board (UAB Report #111)

January 21, 2003

The Vice-Provost, Students, provided a verbal update on the administration's progress in the senior assessor's report, noting that many complaints had been received and that the administration was investigating them. (UAB Report #112, Item #8, p. 9)

March 25, 2003

The Vice-Provost, Students, provided a written and verbal update in the senior assessor's report. Members received a letter (dated February 25, 2003) from Mr. Jim Delaney, Assistant Director, Student Affairs, to the student societies summarizing his assessment of the situation and his decision not to recommend approval. (UAB Report #113, Item #7, pp. 7-8)

April 29, 2003

The Vice-Provost, Students provided a written and verbal update and gave notice that the administration intended to ask the UAB agenda planning group to include this item on the agenda of the next meeting. (UAB Report #114, Item #8, p. 6)

June 3, 2003

The issue was placed on the agenda for information. A cover sheet summarizing the administration's decision (not to recommend approval of the fee increases) and another copy of the February 25th letter was distributed to members. This discussion is recorded in the minutes. No one attempted to have the fee increases considered for approval. (UAB Report #115, Item #9, pp. 8-9)

June 1, 2004

On May 3, 2004, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Divisional Court) heard an application from APUS for a judicial review to challenge the administration's decision not to recommend the APUS request for a fee increase. The Court agreed with the University's assertion that APUS should have taken steps to have the matter brought before the University Affairs Board for a vote (in the absence of a recommendation from the administration) and asked that the matter be considered by the Board before further consideration by the Court. At the request of APUS, the Board considered and approved the request for a fee increase on June 1, 2004. (UAB Report #122, Item #5, pp. 3-5)

HIGHLIGHTS:

Notwithstanding the administration's assessment of the fairness of the referendum process, in light of the University Affairs Board's approval of the APUS request on June 1, 2004, and in consideration of the administration's judgment that this was a single referendum held jointly by SAC, APUS, and SCSU, it is recommended that the requests from SAC and SCSU be approved effective the summer 2005 session.

Pursuant to the terms of referendum and the *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees*, beginning with the fall 2005 session, subsequent annual increases, no greater than the Ontario Consumer Price Index of the previous December, to the CFS/CFS-O portion of the SAC and SCSU fees may be requested upon approval of the SAC and SCSU boards of directors respectively.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no significant implications for the University's operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the University Affairs Board approve:

THAT beginning in the summer 2005 session, the Students' Administrative Council fee be increased by \$6.27 per session for membership in the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario, charged to all full-time undergraduate students on the St. George Campus and at the University of Toronto at Mississauga.

As a result of the fee increase the SAC fee on the St. George Campus would increase from \$19.48 to \$25.75 per session in summer 2005 and from \$99.19 to \$105.46 per session in fall 2005 and winter 2006; and the SAC fee on the Mississauga Campus would increase from \$17.23 to \$23.50 per session in summer 2005 and from \$96.94 to \$103.21 per session in fall 2005 and winter 2006. (Please note that SAC's health and dental plan portions of the SAC fee are not charged in the summer session.)

Please also note that while SAC is authorized to charge \$59.28 per session for its dental plan, it has elected to charge only \$38.13 per session)

THAT beginning in the summer 2005 session, the Scarborough Campus Students' Union fee for full-time students be increased by \$6.27 per session for membership in the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario, charged to all full-time undergraduate students at the University of Toronto at Scarborough.

As a result of the fee increase, the SCSU fee for full-time students would increase from \$138.77 per session to \$145.04. (Please note that while SCSU is authorized to charge \$59.28 per session for its dental plan, it has elected to charge only \$38.13 per session)