

FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: University Affairs Board

SPONSOR: Professor Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost, Students

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PRESENTER: See Sponsor

DATE: April 12, 2023 for April 19, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 5 (b)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Student Societies: Requests for Fee Increases – University of Toronto Scarborough

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Section 5 of the University Affairs Board *Terms of Reference* list student societies and compulsory non-academic incidental fees among the Board’s areas of responsibility.

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.”

Following approval by the UTSC Campus Council, student society fee increases are brought forward to the University Affairs Board for information.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. UTSC Campus Affairs Committee [For Recommendation] (February 9, 2023)
2. UTSC Campus Council [For Approval] (March 8, 2023)
3. Executive Committee [For Confirmation] (March 21, 2023)
4. **University Affairs Board [For Information] (April 19, 2023)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

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

HIGHLIGHTS:

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

Scarborough Campus Students' Union

Additional information is provided in the attached memorandum from Neel Joshi, Dean of Student Experience & Wellbeing.

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 found to be in compliance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is presented for information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Student Societies: Requests for Fee Increases – University of Toronto Scarborough



TO: Members of the UTSC Campus Council

FROM: Neel Joshi, Dean of Student Experience & Wellbeing

DATE: February 27, 2023

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

Requests from one UTSC student society for the fee changes listed below has been received by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students (OVPS), which manages the University-wide administrative processes related to student society fee requests. The 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 and/or by-laws which relate 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 2022 consumer price index for Ontario was 6%.

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 Health Plan and Dental 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 Students' Union (SCSU)

Background

In Fall/Winter 2022-23 the total SCSU fee was \$493.07 per session for full-time University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) undergraduate students (\$53.62 part-time). The fee includes \$29.43 per session (\$1.82 part-time) for the society portion of the fee, \$94.16 per session (full-time only) for the Health Plan portion of the fee, \$119.01 per session (full-time only) for the Dental Plan portion of the fee, \$43.85 per session (\$13.13 part-time) for the Student Centre portion of the fee, \$8.79 per session (full-time only) for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) portion of the fee, \$0.75 per session (\$0.25 part-time) for the WUSC Program portion of the fee, and \$191.60 per session (\$38.32 part-time) for the UTSC Sports & Recreation Complex Levy.

Requests

- i. A cost-of-living increase to the society portion of the fee.*

At its meeting, held on February 1, 2023, the SCSU Board of Directors approved 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. An inflationary increase in the Health Plan portion of the fee.*

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

At an upcoming Winter 2023 meeting, the SCSU Board of Directors will consider a resolution to request an inflationary increase to the Health 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.

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

In accordance with the original referendum question, the 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 of Directors.

At an upcoming Winter 2023 meeting, the SCSU Board of Directors will consider a resolution to request an inflationary 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.

- iv. A cost-of-living increase to the Student Centre portion of the fee.*

At its meeting, held on February 1, 2023, the SCSU Board of Directors approved a resolution to request a cost-of-living increase to the Student Centre 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 Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) portion of the fee.*

In accordance with the original referendum question, the SCSU may request increases to the CFS portion of the fee of up to the previous Canada December-over-December cost-of-living increase (consumer price index), calculated by Statistics Canada, upon approval of a resolution by the SCSU Board of Directors. The December 2022 consumer price index for Canada was 6.3%.

At its meeting, held on February 1, 2023, the SCSU Board of Directors approved a resolution to request a cost-of-living increase to the CFS 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 WUSC Program portion of the fee.*

At its meeting, held on February 1, 2023, the SCSU Board of Directors approved a resolution to continue the WUSC 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, the SCSU, and the University, in respect of the Levy.

Summary of Changes

Scarborough Campus Students' Union	Summer 2023		Fall 2023		Winter 2024		Summer 2022		Fall 2022		Winter 2023	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Society (cost-of-living increases permitted without referendum))	29.43	1.82	31.20	1.93	31.20	1.93	27.98	1.73	29.43	1.82	29.43	1.82
Health Plan (including sales tax; increases up to 10% permitted without referendum; refundable)			Up to 103.58		Up to 103.58				94.16		94.16	
Dental Plan (including sales tax; increases up to 10% permitted without referendum; refundable)			Up to 130.91		Up to 130.91				119.01		119.01	
Student Centre (cost-of-living increases permitted without referendum)	43.85	13.13	46.48	13.92	46.48	13.92	41.68	12.48	43.85	13.13	43.85	13.13
Blue Sky Solar Car (refundable)	0.13		0.13		0.13		0.13		0.13		0.13	
Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) (Canadian CPI cost-of-living increases permitted without referendum))	8.79		9.34		9.34		8.39		8.79		8.79	
Day Care Subsidy (refundable)	0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50	
Downtown Legal Services (refundable)	0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50	
Foster Children Program	0.05		0.05		0.05		0.05		0.05		0.05	
Frontier College Students for Literacy (refundable)			0.50	0.10	0.50	0.10			0.50	0.10	0.50	0.10
Health Initiatives in Developing Countries (refundable)	0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25	
Orientation (refundable)	0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50		0.50	
U of T Environmental Resource Network (refundable)	0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25	
Wheelchair Accessibility Projects	1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00		1.00	
Women's Centre (refundable)	1.50		1.50		1.50		1.50		1.50		1.50	
WUSC Fund			0.30		0.30				0.30		0.30	
WUSC Program (through 2023-24; SCSU Board approval required for 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
UTSC Sports & Recreation Complex Levy (through 2038-39; increases up to 4% permitted without referendum)	199.26	39.85	199.26	39.85	199.26	39.85	191.60	38.32	191.60	38.32	191.60	38.32
TOTAL	\$286.76	\$55.05	Up to \$527.00	Up to \$56.05	Up to \$527.00	Up to \$56.05	\$275.08	\$52.78	\$493.07	\$53.62	\$493.07	\$53.62
Change from Previous Year	+4.2% \$11.68	+4.3% \$2.27	Up to +6.9% \$33.93	Up to +4.5% \$2.43	Up to +6.9% \$33.93	Up to +4.5% \$2.43	+2.8% \$7.43	+2.9% \$1.48	+5.2% \$24.53	+4.3% \$2.22	+5.2% \$24.53	+4.3% \$2.22

Recommendations

THAT, beginning in the Summer 2023 session, the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU) fee be modified as follows: an increase of \$7.66 per session (\$1.53 part-time) in the UTSC Sports & Recreation Complex Levy portion of the fee;

THAT, beginning in the Fall 2023 session, the SCSU fee be modified as follows: (a) an increase of \$1.77 per session (\$0.11 part-time) in the society portion of the fee, (b) an increase of \$2.63 per session (\$0.79 part-time) in the Student Centre portion of the fee, (c) an increase of \$0.55 per session (full-time only) in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) portion of the fee, and (d) continuation of the WUSC Program portion of the fee through the 2023-24 academic period; and

THAT, subject to confirmation of approval of the following fee change proposals by the SCSU Board of Directors, beginning in the Fall 2023 session, the SCSU fee be modified as follows: (a) an increase of up to \$9.42 per Fall and Winter sessions (full-time only) in the Health Plan portion of the fee and (b) an increase of up to \$11.90 per Fall and Winter sessions (full-time only) in the Dental Plan portion of the fee.

If approved, the total Fall/Winter SCSU fee will be up to \$527.00 per session (up to \$56.05 part-time), charged to all UTSC undergraduate students.