

FOR APPROVAL

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTSC Campus Council

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DATE: April 14, 2025, for April 21, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees: UTSC Student Societies - Proposals for Fee Increases

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Section 5.1. of the *Terms of Reference* provides that student societies and compulsory non-academic incidental fees are within the responsibility of the UTSC Campus Affairs Committee. Sections 5.4.1. and 5.4.2 state that fees for UTSC representative student committees and campus student societies “are approved by the UTSC Council on the recommendation of the UTSC Campus Affairs Committee”.

Student society fees are subject to the terms and conditions of the *Policy on Ancillary Fees* (Category 2.0, “Student organizations and services provided by such organizations”, and Category 3.0, “Student levies for specific, limited projects”), and the *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees*.

Increases that are greater than the cost of living must be supported by referendum. Other increases must be supported by a previous referendum approving the concept of annual increases by the cost of living or an explicit inflation factor. The administrative procedures are outlined in the *Handbook for Student Societies*, which is published by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students (OVPS).

Requests for increases are brought forward to the UTSC Campus Affairs Committee by the administration on the assurances of the student societies that due constitutional and fair procedures have been followed within the societies concerned. If a complaint is received about the process related to a fee request from a student society, the OVPS makes inquiries about the issue and, if necessary, investigates matter further as part of the assessment of the request.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. UTSC Campus Affairs Committee [For Recommendation] (March 24, 2025)
2. **UTSC Campus Council [For Approval] (April 21, 2025)**
3. University Affairs Board [For Information] (May 1, 2025)
4. Executive Committee [For Confirmation] (May 6, 2025)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Requests for changes to existing student society fees and/or the establishment of new fees may be brought forward to the UTSC Campus Affairs Committee on one or more occasions each year. The UTSC Campus Affairs Committee last considered changes to student society fees on March 4, 2025.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The following student society has requested changes to fees charged on their behalf by the University:

Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU)

- Society fee (full-time) – cost-of-living increase by \$0.55 per session (from \$32.26 to \$32.81)
- Society fee (part-time) – cost-of-living increase by \$0.03 per session (from \$2.00 to \$2.03)
- Health Plan (full-time only) – inflationary increase by up to \$10.36 per fall & winter session (from \$103.58 to up to \$113.94)
- Dental Plan (full-time only) – inflationary increase by up to \$13.09 per fall & winter session (from \$130.91 to up to \$144.00)
- Student Centre (full-time) – cost-of-living increase by \$0.82 per session (from \$48.06 to \$48.88)
- Student Centre (part-time) – cost-of-living increase by \$0.24 per session (from \$14.39 to \$14.63)
- Canadian Federation of Students (CFS; full time only) – cost-of-living increase by \$0.17 per session (\$9.34 to \$9.51)
- WUSC Program (full-time & part-time) – continue through 2025-26

If approved, the total fall/winter SCSU fee, charged to all UTSC undergraduate students, will increase by up to \$33.28 per session (from \$544.84 to up to \$578.12) for full-time students and by \$1.93 per session (from \$61.80 to \$63.73) for part-time students.

The Office of the Vice-Provost, Students (OVPS) has not yet received confirmation of approval by the SCSU Board of Directors for the proposed fee changes listed above; this is normal and is the result of the asynchronous nature of the SCSU and University governance systems. In the interim, the maximum allowable increase permitted without a referendum is shown as the “up to” amount. These amounts are typically finalized and approved by the end of the winter session.

The OVPS has reviewed the requests above in light of the requirements of the *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees*, has found them to be in compliance with these requirements, and has recommended them for approval. Additional information regarding these requests has been included in this item's documentation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Resolved

That Subject to Confirmation by the Executive Committee,

THAT, beginning in the Fall 2025 session, the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU) fee be modified as follows:

- (a) an increase of \$0.55 per session in the society portion of the fee (\$0.03 for part-time students);
- (b) an increase of \$0.82 per session in the Student Centre portion of the fee (\$0.24 for part-time students);
- (c) an increase of \$0.17 per session in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) portion of the fee (full-time only); and
- (d) continuation of the WUSC Program portion of the fee through the 2025-26 academic period.

THAT, subject to confirmation of approval of the following fee change proposals by the SCSU Board of Directors, beginning in the Fall 2025 session, the SCSU fee be modified as follows:

- (a) an increase of up to \$10.36 per fall and winter sessions in the Health Plan portion of the fee (full-time only);
- (b) an increase of up to \$13.09 per fall and winter sessions in the Dental Plan portion of the fee (full-time only).

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees: UTSC Student Societies - Proposals for Fee Increases



To: Members of the UTSC Campus Council
From: Tim Tang, Dean of Student Experience & Wellbeing
Date: April 10, 2025
Re: Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees: UTSC Student Societies - Proposals for Fee Increases

Fee change requests from a UTSC student society have been received by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students (OVPS) and described below. The OVPS manages the University-wide administrative processes related to student society fee change requests and keeps my office informed with respect to the fee change requests received from UTSC student societies. The OVPS has reviewed the requests below in light of the requirements of the *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees*, has found them to be in compliance with these requirements, and has recommended them for approval.

Fee increase requests from student societies must meet a set of requirements. Section B.4 of the *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees* outlines the University's 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 *Handbook for Student Societies*, which is published by the OVPS on an annual basis, also provides that student society fee change requests must include 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 student society fee change processes at two points. Initially, student societies are asked to seek advice from the OVPS on the wording of their referendum questions (with respect to clarity and technical language). The second point occurs after the referendum, when the society makes the formal request for a fee change. 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 fee change requests 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 changes 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 should be clear and provide enough information for the society's members to gain a full understanding of the implications of the question and the proposed fee;
4. The referendum must be held in a fair manner, promoted in a reasonable manner, and provide all of the society's members with a reasonable opportunity to vote; and
5. The student society must comply with the provisions of its own constitution, by-laws, rules of procedure, and specific policies and procedures approved by its board or council.

Student societies that have previously received approval (through a previous referendum) from their members for an annual cost-of-living increase in one or more of the society's portions of its fee may request increases, upon approval by the society's board or council, of up to the previous Ontario December-over-December Consumer Price Index, as calculated by Statistics Canada. The December 2024 consumer price index for Ontario was 1.7%.

However, 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 of up to 10% in the Health and Dental Plan portions of its fee.

It is important to note that, it is the student society's own constitution, by-laws, and 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 fee changes based on a referendum and those only requiring the approval of a 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

The total SCSU fee for Fall 2024/Winter 2025 sessions, charged to all full-time UTSC undergraduate students, was \$544.84 per session for full-time students and \$61.80 per session for part-time students. The fee included:

- \$32.26 per session for the society portion of the fee (\$2.00 for part-time students);
- \$103.58 per session for the Health Plan portion of the fee (full-time only);
- \$130.91 per session for the Dental Plan portion of the fee (full-time only);
- \$48.06 per session for the Student Centre portion of the fee (\$14.39 part-time);
- \$9.34 per session for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) portion of the fee (full-time only);
- \$0.75 per session for the WUSC Program portion of the fee (\$0.25 for part-time students).

Requests

In the course of considering the following requests, the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students has not received any complaints from the student members of the SCSU.

1. [A cost-of-living increase to the society portion of the fee.](#)

At its meeting, held on March 21, 2025, the SCSU Board of Directors approved a resolution to request a cost-of-living increase to the society portion of the fee.

2. [An inflationary increase in the Health Plan portion of the fee.](#)

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

At an upcoming Winter 2025 meeting, the SCSU Board of Directors will consider a resolution to request an inflationary increase to the Health Plan portion of the fee.

3. An inflationary increase in the Dental Plan portion of the fee.

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

At an upcoming Winter 2025 meeting, the SCSU Board of Directors will consider a resolution to request an inflationary increase to the Dental Plan portion of the fee.

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

At its meeting, held on March 21, 2025, the SCSU Board of Directors approved a resolution to request a cost-of-living increase to the Student Centre portion of the fee.

5. 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 of up to the previous Canada December-over-December Consumer Price Index, as calculated by Statistics Canada, to the CFS portion of the fee upon approval of a resolution by the SCSU Board of Directors. The December 2024 consumer price index for Canada was 1.8%.

At its meeting, held on March 21, 2025, the SCSU Board of Directors approved a resolution to request a cost-of-living increase to the CFS portion of the fee.

6. Continuation of the WUSC Program portion of the fee.

At its meeting, held on March 21, 2025, the SCSU Board of Directors approved a resolution to continue the WUSC Program portion of the fee.

Summary of Changes

If approved, the total fall/winter SCSU fee, charged to all UTSC undergraduate students, will be up to \$578.12 per session for full-time students (an increase of up to \$33.28) and \$63.73 per session for part-time students (an increase of \$1.93).

Scarborough Campus Students' Union	Summer 2025		Fall 2025		Winter 2026		Summer 2024		Fall 2024		Winter 2025	
	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))	32.26	2.00	32.81	2.03	32.81	2.03	31.20	1.93	32.26	2.00	32.26	2.00
Health Plan (including sales tax; increases up to 10% permitted without referendum; refundable)			Up to 113.94		Up to 113.94				103.58		103.58	
Dental Plan (including sales tax; increases up to 10% permitted without referendum; refundable)			Up to 144.00		Up to 144.00				130.91		130.91	
Student Centre (cost-of-living increases permitted without referendum)	48.06	14.39	48.88	14.63	48.88	14.63	46.48	13.92	48.06	14.39	48.06	14.39
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))	9.34		9.51		9.51		9.34		9.34		9.34	
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	
Regenesis UTSC (refundable)	7.23	3.62	7.23	3.62	7.23	3.62			7.23	3.62	7.23	3.62
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 2025-26; 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)	215.52	43.10	215.52	43.10	215.52	43.10	207.23	41.44	207.23	41.44	207.23	41.44
TOTAL	\$317.84	\$63.36	Up to \$578.12	\$63.73	Up to \$578.12	\$63.73	\$299.68	\$57.54	\$544.84	\$61.80	\$544.84	\$61.80
Change from Previous Year	+6.1% \$18.16	+10.1% \$5.82	Up to +6.1% \$33.28	+3.1% \$1.93	Up to +6.1% \$33.28	+3.1% \$1.93	+4.5% \$12.92	+4.5% \$2.49	+7.7% \$39.16	+10.3% \$5.75	+7.7% \$39.165	+10.3% \$5.75

Recommendation

THAT, beginning in the Fall 2025 session, the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU) fee be modified as follows:

- (a) an increase of \$0.55 per session in the society portion of the fee (\$0.03 for part-time students);
- (b) an increase of \$0.82 per session in the Student Centre portion of the fee (\$0.24 for part-time students);
- (c) an increase of \$0.17 per session in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) portion of the fee (full-time only); and
- (d) continuation of the WUSC Program portion of the fee through the 2025-26 academic period.

THAT, subject to confirmation of approval of the following fee change proposals by the SCSU Board of Directors, beginning in the Fall 2025 session, the SCSU fee be modified as follows:

- (a) an increase of up to \$10.36 per fall and winter sessions in the Health Plan portion of the fee (full-time only); and
- (b) an increase of up to \$13.09 per fall and winter sessions in the Dental Plan portion of the fee (full-time only).