

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

TO: University Affairs Board

SPONSOR: Professor Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost, Students

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PRESENTER: See Sponsor

DATE: May 14, 2026, for May 27, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

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

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

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

Section 5.1 of the UTSC 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] (April 28, 2026)
2. UTSC Campus Council [For Approval] (May 25, 2026)
3. **University Affairs Board [For Information] (May 27, 2026)**
4. Executive Committee [For Confirmation] (June 15, 2026)

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. The Board was last informed about changes to UTSC student society fees on April 23, 2026.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The following student society has requested changes to a fee charged by the University on its behalf:

Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU)

- WUSC Student Refugee Program (full-time) – continue and increase by \$1.75 per session (from \$0.75 to \$2.50)
- WUSC Student Refugee Program (part-time) – continue and increase by \$0.50 per session (from \$0.25 to \$0.75)

If approved, the total fall/winter SCSU fee, charged to all UTSC undergraduate students, will increase by up to \$37.18 per session (from \$568.73 to up to \$605.91) for full-time students and by \$2.58 per session (from \$63.73 to \$66.31) for part-time students. This includes the 2026-27 SCSU fee change requests approved by the UTSC Campus Council in previous cycles.

These requests were reviewed by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students (OVPS) in light of the requirements set out by the *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees* and were found to be in compliance with these requirements. In the course of considering these requests, the OVPS has not received any complaints from the student members of the SCSU.

Details regarding these requests and the recommendation below are provided in the included memorandum.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is presented for information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

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



To: Members of the UTSC Campus Affairs Committee
From: Tim Tang, Dean of Student Experience & Wellbeing
Date: April 20, 2026
Re: Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees: UTSC Student Societies - Proposals for Fee Increases

A fee change request from a UTSC student society has 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 governing body.

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 governing body, 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 2025/Winter 2026 sessions, charged to all UTSC undergraduate students, was \$568.73 per session for full-time students and \$63.73 per session for part-time students. This included \$0.75 per session for the WUSC Student Refugee Program portion of the fee (\$0.25 for part-time students).

Request

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

1. Continuation of, and increase in, the WUSC Student Refugee Program portion of the fee and establishment of a cost-of-living allowance.

A referendum was held from March 9, 2026, to March 11, 2026, in which UTSC undergraduate students were asked to support the continuation of, and an increase in, the designated WUSC Student Refugee Program portion of the SCSU fee. The wording of the question was as follows:

Preamble

World University Service of Canada (WUSC) is a national organization that partners with Canadian universities to operate the Student Refugee Program (SRP), which enables students from refugee backgrounds to pursue post-secondary education in Canada while receiving settlement and sponsorship support.

We are seeking the consent of Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU) members at the University of Toronto Scarborough to help increase the funds for the WUSC Student Refugee Program at UTSC.

Starting in May 2026, each SCSU member at the Scarborough Campus would pay a levy of \$2.50 per semester if they are a full-time student, and \$0.75 per semester if they are a part-time student.

These fees would be administered by the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU) and subsequently transferred to the International Student Centre within the Office of Student Experience & Well-being (OSEW) for appropriate redistribution to WUSC students at UTSC.

The International Student Centre of the Office of Student Experience & Well-being (OSEW) would be required to spend all collected fees exclusively on the sponsorship and support of students in the Student Refugee Program at UTSC, including but not limited to:

- i.) Immigration and sponsorship fees
- ii.) Basic living and settlement expenses
- iii.) Transitional support
- iv.) Upper-year student support where applicable

Question

Do you agree to a levy increase of \$2.50 per semester for full-time students & 0.75 cents per semester for part-time students; adjusted annually in accordance with the Ontario Consumer Price Index?

- *Yes, I support increasing the levy of the WUSC Student Refugee Program at UTSC.*
- *No, I don't support increasing the levy of the WUSC Student Refugee Program at UTSC.*
- *Abstain*

The results of the referendum were as follows:

Yes:	432 (33.9%)	Eligible Voters (approx.):	15,179
No:	420 (33.0%)	Voter Turnout (approx.):	1,273 (8.4%)
Abstain/Spoiled:	421 (33.1%)		
Total ballots:	1,273		

Additional Information

Due to the timing of the referendum, the ratification of its results, and the University's governance meetings – as well the standard practice of student society fee changes becoming effective in the fall session (except those with specific operational requirements requiring otherwise) – the fee change requested above would become effective for the Fall 2026 session if approved, despite the referendum question stating “Starting in May 2026”.

Summary of Changes

If approved, the total fall/winter SCSU fee, charged to all UTSC undergraduate students, will be up to \$605.91 per session for full-time students (an increase of up to \$37.18) and will be \$66.31 per session for part-time students (an increase of \$2.58). This includes the 2026-27 SCSU fee change requests approved by the UTSC Campus Council in previous cycles.

Scarborough Campus Students' Union	Summer 2026		Fall 2026		Winter 2027		Summer 2025		Fall 2025		Winter 2026	
	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)	32.81	2.03	33.50	2.07	33.50	2.07	32.26	2.00	32.81	2.03	32.81	2.03
Health Plan (increases up to 10% permitted without referendum; refundable)			Up to 120.77		Up to 120.77				109.79		109.79	
Dental Plan (increases up to 10% permitted without referendum; refundable)			Up to 152.64		Up to 152.64				138.76		138.76	
Student Centre (cost-of-living increases permitted without referendum)	48.88	14.63	49.91	14.94	49.91	14.94	48.06	14.39	48.88	14.63	48.88	14.63
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)	9.51		9.74		9.74		9.34		9.51		9.51	
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	
Regenesys UTSC (cost-of-living increases permitted without referendum; refundable)	7.23	3.62	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 Student Refugee Program (cost-of-living increases permitted without referendum)	0.75	0.25	2.50	0.75	2.50	0.75	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)	224.14	44.83	224.14	44.83	224.14	44.83	215.52	43.10	215.52	43.10	215.52	43.10
TOTAL	\$328.00	\$65.36	Up to \$605.91	\$66.31	Up to \$605.91	\$66.31	\$317.84	\$63.36	\$568.73	\$63.73	\$568.73	\$63.73
Change from Previous Year	+3.2% \$10.16	+3.2% \$2.00	Up to +6.5% \$37.18	+4.0% \$2.58	Up to +6.5% \$37.18	+4.0% \$2.58	+6.1% \$18.16	+10.1% \$5.82	+4.4% \$23.89	+3.1% \$1.93	+4.4% \$23.89	+3.1% \$1.93

Recommendation

THAT, beginning in the Fall 2026 session, the Scarborough Campus Students' Union fee be modified as follows:

- (a) the continuation of, and an increase of \$1.75 per session (\$0.50 for part-time students) in, the WUSC Student Refugee Program portion of the fee.