

Notes from Tuition Fee break-out session - April 25, 2015 Senate meeting

Question – other universities same 24%?

Over 12 year span – Administration doubling all programs relatively flat. Is this part of discussion?

% of tuition cost related to projects they are in – post grad income relation

Student numbers growing? Will be a factor in discussing tuition rates.

Are these other considerations:

Are these differential on foreign student 50%

Value of foreign students to university. Why recruit?

Is there a philosophical statement re the role of the University and the role of Colleges and cost of tuition to value of tuition in post-secondary education.

Is there any consultations with the public and separate high school systems to discuss what they see as issues re access to university?

Does any portion of tuition go to operating expense?

Does cost of living play a part of determining tuition?

Does cost of daycare play a part?

How can we better access student participation in determining tuition?

Does tuition reflect on retention rate?

Does corporate sponsorship have an impact on tuition?

Q 1. What do you think about what you heard?

Thorough – like the process

Excellent explanation of the 3 cures

Should share with media

Good to understand process

Continue consultation with students

Strong connection with quality and cost

Really appreciated the statistical analysis presentation

Q 2. Other considerations

Would like to see a discussion around the university experience

-why are students invested

-what are \$ geared to? Classes? Extracurricular?

Discussion about

-identifying means to support students who cannot meet tuition

Why do students today choose partial loads (class loads)

1. Include all fees in reporting tuition costs.
2. Students want transparency to see the breakdown of how their tuition fees are being spent.
3. "Comparability" is not the most important indicator.
4. WCVM students are 'doing better' compared to other vet colleges 25% of WCVM's operating budget comes from tuition.
5. Tuition should pay for program quality but that is hard to measure. "Comparability" should include more than just number. Eg. What are the parameters of education resources provided to students?
6. Tuition nationally has increased exponentially over past few decades.
7. Make tuition an issue in next federal election: Federal cash transfers for post-secondary education in the last decade have declined 50% when measured as a proportion of GDP. When accounting for inflation and increases in enrolment, cash transfers are still over \$400M short of 1992 levels. Even though tuition has risen, access to resources and debt repayment support has improved. Debt load actually went down.
8. Good to know the role of scholarships/grants (donations to compensate for tuition increases (an important piece of the puzzle).
9. Emphases could be placed on employability for college grads.
10. Keep advocating for student voice in how tuition is set and affects them (democratic process).

1. Thoughts:

- stats Canada explanation useful
- proportion of tuition to government grant

2. Questions/considerations

- student Government loans
- differential international student rates where does it go?
- How do we come up with the % that is tuition based?

Consultation: What would keep students here?

- tuition does matter
- consideration of 'free' tuition
- where's benefit to taxpayers to pay for certain students

Get jobs where your employer will pay for your post grad education.

1. Thoughts so far

- feel Sask population recognize value and are willing to pay – not "take the free meal."
- consulting students is valuable and must include education to explanation to students
- would like to see actual stats on comparable fees (U15)

2. Why do students choose U of S? Cost? Education quality? Because they live here? Etc.

3. Problem identified: Stats Canada comparing apples and oranges.

Question: Does U of S have a plan to discuss and get changed so that apples are compared to apples.

Need to take Stats Canada methodology seriously.

Struck that students aren't used to consultation.

USSU/GSA have strong role; more local college conversations beginning.

Where is USSU/GSA action plan on tuition?

Length of time a person is a student is short. Takes time to become engaged in student issues – so many other pressures on their time.

Larger social issues – cost of living.

Ideal world – no tuition?

Debt levels continue to grow.

What is the state of student debt at the U of S. Other means of financing education.

How does RESP system affect enrolment?

Growth in use of these funds.

Are students not attending because they can't afford PSE?

Students work 3X hours as they used to afford/pay tuition (compared to 40 years ago).

SK has least regulated relationship in terms of tuition and quality with government compared to other provinces.