

Ministry of Advanced
Education and Skills
Development

Deputy Minister

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Memorandum To: Executive Heads of Ontario Universities
Presidents of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology

From: Sheldon Levy
Deputy Minister

Date: December 15 2016

Subject: Extended Tuition Fee Framework & Technical Working
Groups on Tuition Related Issues

Over the past months, we have been working closely with students and institutions on many important initiatives, including the funding formula reviews, the Tuition Fee Framework and OSAP transformation.

For OSAP transformation in particular, as we prepare for net tuition billing, we are greatly appreciative of the efforts of everyone as we move this forward. In recent days, the government has launched some important tools, including the Student Assistance Calculator, to help students and their families find out easily whether they qualify for free tuition or other grants and supports. We are very encouraged by the tremendous uptake in the use of these tools.

If we look at all of these various initiatives – OSAP transformation, funding formula reviews, the Tuition Fee Framework – they are all critical components of helping to move Ontario's higher education system forward.

While we continue to work with you on preparing for net tuition billing, the government has made a decision to extend the current Tuition Fee Framework, which was set to expire in 2017, for two additional years.

This extended framework will help ensure that postsecondary education remains affordable for students, while providing stability and predictability to institutions during a period of postsecondary education transformation.

Consistent with the current framework, most postsecondary programs may increase by up to three per cent. Tuition for high-demand, professional undergraduate and graduate programs may increase by up to five per cent per year. In addition, the overall institutional average fee rate of increase cannot exceed three per cent per year. The extended Tuition Fee Framework applies to all publicly-funded programs and will expire in 2019.

Tuition Compliance Reporting

The government and postsecondary sector are working together to implement a net billing system that better reflects government and institutional grants for students by September 2018. Existing tuition fee compliance reporting will be adjusted to help facilitate earlier tuition-setting for institutions and implementation of the net billing system.

As with the previous framework, institutions will be required to report their annual tuition fees to the ministry, and executives will be required to sign-off that tuition fees are compliant. The ministry will be providing updated tuition implementation guidelines to institutions. The guidelines will provide more detail, and help ensure consistent interpretation of the extended framework.

In addition, the existing compliance and tuition fee reporting structures will be adjusted to help facilitate earlier tuition-setting for institutions and implementation of net tuition billing. The ministry will require institutions to report on tuition fees for the next two academic years by using previous years' enrolment. The ministry will discuss with institutions the best way to calculate the overall average tuition fee increase of three per cent.

Any questions regarding the tuition fee framework as it applies to universities and colleges respectively can be directed to Itan Farrokhyar at 416-314-3868 or Itan.Farrokhyar@ontario.ca or to JoAnne Sakura at 416-314-6863 or JoAnne.Sakura@ontario.ca.

Tuition Working Groups

The ministry remains committed to addressing the cost of accessing and completing a postsecondary education.

In early 2017, the ministry will convene a Postsecondary Education Tuition Technical Working Group, composed of representatives from colleges, universities, and students to discuss issues related to fees and processes. Our goal for these discussions is to increase accessibility, fairness, and transparency for students, consistent with the government's direction on student financial assistance, while ensuring good management of our colleges and universities.

The ministry will contact your organization to identify members for the Working Group at a later date.

I look forward to working with you in the interest of supporting student access and success within a high quality postsecondary education system in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Levy
Deputy Minister

c: Steve Orsini, Secretary of Cabinet
Howie Bender, Chief of Staff
Glenn Craney, ADM Strategic Policy and Program Division
David Carter-Whitney, ADM Postsecondary Education Division
Council of Ontario Universities
Colleges Ontario
Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA)
College Student Alliance (CSA)
Canadian Federations of Students – Ontario
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