



## University Students' Council Standing Policy

<b>Ancillary Fees</b>	<b>SP 12.1(II)</b>
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<b>Legislative History</b>
Approved by Council in October 2012
To be reviewed by Council in its 2015-2016 sitting
Approved by Council in January 2016 (tentative)
To be reviewed by Council in its 2019-2020 sitting

<b>Original Author(s)</b>	<b>Author(s) of Renewed Paper</b>
<p>Amy Wood External Affairs Coordinator University Students' Council</p> <p><i>with files from</i> Mandy van Waes Research and Policy Intern University Students' Council</p>	<p>Alex Benac Vice-President Internal University Students' Council</p>

# Contents

- Introduction and Overview ..... 3
- Recommendation 1 ..... 4
- Recommendation 2 ..... 5
- Recommendation 3 ..... 6
- Appendix 1: Western University Ancillary Fee Schedule, 2015-16 ..... 7
- Appendix 2: University of Western Ontario Ancillary Fee Schedule, 2010-11 ..... 8

# Introduction and Overview

In addition to tuition, supplementary, and student donation fees, students enrolled at universities across Ontario pay **compulsory non-tuition-related ancillary fees**. These fees, also known as **ancillary fees**, **student fees**, or **student ancillary fees**, cover costs associated with services that are either explicitly or implicitly tied to academic success at Western. These fees, governed by the provincial government, represent \$1036.92 in compulsory spending for every full-time main campus student. However, the focus of this paper is on a portion of that total: the compulsory \$449.52 that each student pays directly to Western University to support the operations of centrally-operated student service units. Those units are:

- Campus Recreation
- Intercollegiate Athletics
- Thompson Recreation & Athletic Centre
- Financial Aid Office
- International Student Services
- Services for Students with Disabilities
- Student Development Centre
- Student Success Centre
- Student Health Services
- Off-Campus Housing & Mediation
- Western Foot Patrol

Students should never be seen as a means to a financial end. As the primary stakeholders in our Western experience, we should be active participants in conversations about how student ancillary fees are utilized. This paper offers recommendations that seek to improve the fair and decent governance of student dollars and the way in which the institution shares the costs of operating the ancillary fee-funded units.

## Recommendations

The University Students' Council proposes the following recommendations in an effort to improve the ways in which the institution governs, implements, raises, and allocates ancillary fees at Western University.

1. In its long-term planning and budgeting process, Western University should prioritize spending on student support services to reduce dependence on ancillary fees.
2. Western University should endeavour to create a formula that sees student ancillary fee increases matched with operational funding committed by the institution.
3. Western University and the Student Services Committee should cooperate in the creation of an accountability mechanism. This mechanism should require units to report annually on activities funded partially or wholly by ancillary fees.

## **Recommendation 1: In its long-term planning and budgeting process, Western University should prioritize spending on student support services to reduce dependence on ancillary fees.**

**Principle:** students should not be responsible for covering 100% of the costs associated with operating Western University Services.

As of 2016, only a small portion of operations in ancillary fee-funded units receive their funding directly from the central operating budget. That means that student dollars – the \$449.52 outlined in this paper’s introduction – fund the vast majority of on-campus services. The onus is therefore often placed on students to fund program enhancements and service improvements by way of an ancillary fee increase.

**Concern:** a system in which students are relied upon to finance the majority of Western University’s services is unfair and unsustainable.

A system wherein students are relied upon to pay for program enhancements and service improvements is unsustainable. Even with a 16% increase to university-controlled student ancillary fees over the last five years, units continue to seek student support to fund essential programs and services. Such a system has created an environment where fee-funded improvements occur in a trickle rather than a steady stream. This funding model, often governed by trepidation surrounding a substantial increase in fees, is neither fair to students nor in the best interests of the units it supports.

### **Recommendation**

In that spirit, we propose that the University prioritizes student support services in its long-term planning and budgeting process. Institutional support derived from the central operating budget will supplement existing program funding and cover some of the costs associated with long-standing or permanent fixtures, freeing up student dollars for improvements and enhancements. Other institutions, such as Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, account for student services in their central operating budget.<sup>1</sup> This is a model that we believe should be adopted at Western.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://legacy.wlu.ca/calendars/section.php?cal=1&y=61&s=639&ss=2863&sp=2477>

## **Recommendation 2: Western University should endeavour to create a formula that sees student ancillary fee increases matched with operational funding committed by the institution.**

**Principle:** new student fees and increases to existing student fees often come without matching funds from the institution.

**Concern:** when fees are created or increased without a matching provision, the university is in effect, relying solely on student dollars to fund its new or existing initiatives.

Our first recommendation focuses on the need to discontinue the practice of students being the primary source of funding for ancillary fee-funded units. The premise of this recommendation is explicitly tied to that of the first. If students should not be relied upon for the ancillary fee-funded units' financial stability, then a mechanism should be put in place to supplement any increase to student fees with operational funding. It is our belief that University allocations to student services should be explicitly connected to funds committed by students in the form of a fee increase.

### **Recommendation**

A mechanism of this nature is beneficial in a number of ways; chief among them, the implication it would have for future fee increases, which would automatically be tied to a commitment from the University. This would ensure that any future requests to students come with a guarantee from administration that they would, in some measure, match our support.

There is precedent for this type of mechanism at other Ontario universities. For example, at Laurier University, students and administration split the cost of running on-campus student services equally, with half funded directly by students and the other half committed by the institution.<sup>2</sup> Western students are in favour of the adoption of such a model, one that sees the institution and students partnering in an effort to provide high-quality services to their community.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://legacy.wlu.ca/calendars/section.php?cal=1&y=61&s=639&ss=2863&sp=2477>

### **Recommendation 3: Western University and the Student Services Committee should cooperate in the creation of an accountability mechanism. This mechanism should require units to report annually on activities funded partially or wholly by ancillary fees.**

**Principle:** student dollars should be treated with the utmost respect.

**Concern:** a lack of clearly articulated accountability protocols makes it difficult for students to actively participate in conversations about their fees.

#### **Recommendation**

As affirmed in this paper's introduction, it is the firmly held belief of the University Students' Council that student dollars should be treated with the utmost respect. In order for students and their representatives to know whether or not this is the case, we propose the creation of an accountability mechanism or protocol that will compel fee-funded units to provide, in a public forum, routine updates on the status of student-funded projects.

While the Student Services Committee receives annual updates on overall progress from many (but not all) of the fee-funded units, those updates are not mandatory, made consistently, made in a public manner, and are not explicitly tied to a specific instance of fee increases. A new accountability protocol should serve all those purposes, in addition to giving students-at-large an opportunity to monitor ongoing progress and service enhancements. Such a mechanism will allow greater student participation in conversations about how their dollars are spent, what student service priorities should be, and ultimately, whether or not their dollars are being spent appropriately and in accordance with their aspirations.

# Appendix 1: Western University Ancillary Fee Schedule, 2015-16



## ANCILLARY FEE SCHEDULE 2015-2016

Applicable for the period September 1, 2015 - August 31, 2016\*

\*Applicable for the period September 1 to August 31. Fee adjustments will be implemented on September 1, 2015 except for the Student Recreation Centre fee which increases on May 1, 2015 in accordance with the original student referendum.

\* Intersession and Summer Ancillary Fees are applicable to Summer 2016

All fees are approved by the Board of Governors and must be paid as indicated on your statement of account.

UNDERGRADUATES	Full - Time		Part - Time		Intersession & Summer *	
	Per Student	Per Full Course	Per Full Course	Per Half Course	Per Full Course	Per Half Course
<b>Student Organization Fees</b>						
Organization Fee (Note 1)	127.60	25.52		12.76	12.76	6.38
Health Plan	122.01					
USC Dental Plan	123.81					
Bus Pass	217.88					
Ombudsperson	3.23	0.65		0.33	0.33	0.17
Community Legal	5.29	1.06		0.53	0.53	0.27
Late Night Busing	12.93	2.59		1.30		
World University Services of Canada fee	0.84					
Orientation Week Fee (first year students only)	90.00					
Marching Band Fee	0.50	0.10		0.05	0.05	0.03
USC Capital/Facility Fee	31.83	6.37		3.19	3.19	1.60
UCC Operating Fee	63.50	12.70		6.35	6.35	3.18
<b>Total Student Organization Fees</b>	<b>799.42</b>	<b>48.99</b>	<b>24.50</b>		<b>23.21</b>	<b>11.61</b>
<b>Building and Endowment Fee</b>						
Student Recreation Centre Fee	73.80	14.76		7.38	7.62	3.81
Endowment Fund	50.00	10.00		5.00	5.00	2.50
<b>Total Building and Endowment Fees</b>	<b>123.80</b>	<b>24.76</b>	<b>12.38</b>		<b>12.62</b>	<b>6.31</b>
<b>UWO's Student Ancillary Fees</b>						
Campus Recreation	97.31	19.46		9.73	9.73	4.87
Intercollegiate Athletics	85.89	17.18		8.59	8.59	4.30
Thompson Rec. & Athletic Centre	18.82	3.76		1.88	1.88	0.94
Financial Aid Office	37.15	7.43		3.72	3.72	1.86
International Student Services	13.62	2.72		1.36	1.36	0.68
Indigenous Services	7.96	1.59		0.80	0.80	0.40
Services for Students w/ Disabilities	12.86	2.57		1.29	1.29	0.65
Student Development Centre	71.94	14.39		7.20	7.19	3.60
Student Success Centre	44.27	8.85		4.43	4.43	2.22
Student Health Services	46.48	9.30		4.65	4.65	2.33
Off-Campus Housing & Housing Mediation Services	8.65	1.73		0.87	0.87	0.44
Western Foot Patrol	4.57	0.91		0.46	0.46	0.23
<b>Total UWO Student Ancillary Fees</b>	<b>449.57</b>	<b>89.89</b>	<b>44.95</b>		<b>44.97</b>	<b>22.49</b>
<b>TOTAL ANCILLARY FEES</b>	<b>1,372.74</b>	<b>163.64</b>	<b>81.82</b>		<b>80.80</b>	<b>40.40</b>

**Appendix 2: University of Western Ontario Ancillary Fee Schedule, 2010-11**

**the UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO**  
**ANCILLARY FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2010 - 2011**  
 Applicable for the period SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 to AUGUST 31, 2011

**All fees are approved by the Board of Governors and must be paid as indicated on your statement of account.**

<b>UNDERGRADUATES</b>	<b>Full - Time</b>	<b>Part - Time</b>		<b>Intercession &amp; Summer *</b>	
	<b>Per Student</b>	<b>Per Full Course</b>	<b>Per Half Course</b>	<b>Per Full Course</b>	<b>Per Half Course</b>
<b>Student Organization Fees</b>					
Organization Fee	105.30	21.06	10.53	10.53	5.27
Health Plan	96.00				
Bus Pass	144.13				
Ombudsperson	3.00	0.60	0.30	0.30	0.15
Community Legal	4.75	0.95	0.48	0.48	0.24
USC Capital/Facility Fee	25.00	5.00	2.50	2.50	1.25
UCC Operating Fee	47.58	9.52	4.76	4.76	2.38
<b>Total Student Organization Fees</b>	<b>425.76</b>	<b>37.13</b>	<b>18.57</b>	<b>18.57</b>	<b>9.29</b>
<b>Building and Endowment Fee</b>					
Student Recreation Centre Fee	63.65	12.73	6.37	6.56	3.28
Endowment Fund	50.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	2.50
<b>Total Building and Endowment Fees</b>	<b>113.65</b>	<b>22.73</b>	<b>11.37</b>	<b>11.56</b>	<b>5.78</b>
<b>UWO's Student Ancillary Fees</b>					
Campus Recreation	85.35	17.07	8.54	8.54	4.27
Financial Aid Office	33.55	6.71	3.36	3.36	1.68
Indigenous Services	5.30	1.06	0.53	0.53	0.27
Intercollegiate Athletics	75.28	15.06	7.53	7.53	3.77
Off Campus Housing Office	7.51	1.50	0.75	0.75	0.38
Services for Students w/ Disabilities	10.64	2.13	1.07	1.06	0.53
Student Development Centre	72.97	14.59	7.30	7.30	3.65
Student Success Centre	37.43	7.49	3.75	3.74	1.87
Student Health Services	38.94	7.79	3.90	3.89	1.95
Western Foot Patrol	4.04	0.81	0.41	0.40	0.20
Thompson Rec. & Athletic Centre	16.93	3.39	1.70	1.69	0.85
<b>Total UWO Student Ancillary Fees</b>	<b>387.54</b>	<b>77.60</b>	<b>38.80</b>	<b>38.75</b>	<b>19.40</b>
<b>TOTAL ANCILLARY FEES</b>	<b>927.35</b>	<b>137.46</b>	<b>68.73</b>	<b>68.92</b>	<b>34.46</b>

\* Intercession and Summer School Ancillary Fees are applicable to Summer 2011

<b>GRADUATES</b>	<b>Full - Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<b>MBA</b>
	<b>Excl MBA</b>	<b>Per Student</b>	
	<b>Per Term</b>	<b>Per Term</b>	<b>(8 mos &amp; 12 mos)</b>
<b>Student Organization Fees</b>			
Organization Fee	23.30	15.95	
Health & Dental Plan (Note 3)	470.61		
Bus Pass	57.65		
Ombudsperson	1.00		
Community Legal	1.58		
USC Capital/Facility Fee	8.70		71.37
UCC Operating Fee			
<b>Total Student Organization Fees</b>	<b>562.85</b>	<b>15.95</b>	<b>71.37</b>
<b>Building and Endowment Fees</b>			
Student Recreation Centre Fee	21.22	10.61	63.65
Student Endowment Fund	15.67	8.33	50.00
<b>Total Building and Endowment Fees</b>	<b>37.89</b>	<b>18.94</b>	<b>113.65</b>
<b>UWO's Student Ancillary Fees</b>			
Campus Recreation	36.57		109.71
Financial Aid Office	11.18	5.59	33.55
Indigenous Services	1.77	0.88	5.30
Intercollegiate Athletics	25.09		75.28
Off Campus Housing Office	2.50		7.51
Services for Students w/ Disabilities	3.55		10.64
Student Development Centre	24.32	12.16	72.97
Student Success Centre	7.51	3.75	22.52
Student Health Services	12.98		38.94
Western Foot Patrol	1.35	0.67	4.04
Thompson Rec. & Athletic Centre	5.64		16.93
<b>Total UWO's Student Ancillary Fees</b>	<b>132.46</b>	<b>23.05</b>	<b>397.39</b>
<b>TOTAL ANCILLARY FEES</b>	<b>733.19</b>	<b>57.94</b>	<b>582.41</b>

Note 1: The MBA Health Plan and the MBA Student Association fees are to be paid to the MBA Student Association.

Note 2: PhD in Business have reached an agreement with the Society of Graduate Students authorizing the University to collect the SOGs fees commencing September 1, 2009.

Note 3: The Health & Dental Plan Fee will be collected annually in September. This annual fee covers the Sept-Aug period. Students entering a Graduate program in January or May will be charged a pro-rated amount.

While every effort has been made to ensure the above schedule is complete and accurate, The University of Western Ontario reserves the right to make adjustments as required.