



AGENDA REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 14TH, 2014

Item:	Potential Council Initiated Referendums: Orientation Week Fee, Western Mustang Band Fee
Presenters:	Sam Kilgour, Vice-President Student Events (O-Week Fee) Scott Courtice, Managing Director, Government Services
Purpose of Report:	For Information
Item #:	7 b)

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receive this report for information. If the Board has any human resources, legal, financial, or long-term sustainability concerns it may pass a motion to advise Council of its concerns.

Background:

The USC Council has the sole authority to initiate referendums for the purpose of establishing student activity fees that support undergraduate initiatives and services.

The Board of Directors has a fiduciary responsibility to advise Council of any concerns it has related to human resources, legal, and financial issues, or any issues that could harm the long-term sustainability of the organization. As such, two potential fee referendums are being brought to the Board for information so that it has an opportunity to raise any concerns before the item is brought to Council for decision.

Report:

There are two potential fee referendums that will be put to the Council at its November meeting.

Orientation Week Pass Fee

The current funding model requires first-year students to purchase an O-Pass online or upon arrival at Western. This past year 97.5% of the first year class purchased a pass, making it a service that has near universal utilization among students.

Given the high rate of purchase, the Orientation Week Planning Committee (OPC) recommends that the funding model change to a student activity fee rather than requiring students to purchase the pass. This new model provides a number of benefits: a potential reduction in administrative costs associated with selling the pass; a more efficient and convenient process to

distribute passes; a more predictable revenue model from which to plan; and, an increased financial accessibility to the week because a student fee can be taken into account for OSAP purposes, while a direct purchase of an O-Pass cannot.

The fee would be \$90 (which was the pass price for 2014), to be levied on all students who are eligible to participate in the week – it would NOT be levied on upper year students. The referendum question will be worded to ensure that the USC has the flexibility to increase the fee in the future during the annual budget process.

Western Marching Band Fee

The band is struggling with funding issues that make it difficult for them to fulfil their mandate, so it is requesting a fee to assist with funding their operations. The Marching Band has collected several thousand signatures from students who agree that the USC should initiate a referendum to establish a fee for the group, and will petition Council at its November meeting asking for a fee referendum.

The band is asking for \$0.50 per student, with the fee to increase by inflation each year thereafter. The USC would collect the fee and transfer it to the band each year. As a USC ratified club, the band is subject to financial oversight from the USC.

For this referendum to move forward, the band must find members of Council willing to move and second a motion calling for a referendum. Other options are being explored, including investigating if the funding would be more appropriately sourced from Student Recreation Services through their fee which is governed by the Student Services Committee.

Legislative History:

- [By-Law #2, Section 22, Council Initiated Fee Referendums](#) <Hyperlink>

Next Steps:

- Motions to hold referendums for both potential fees will be debated at the next meeting of Council. If the Council agrees to put them on the ballot, students will vote on February 10th and 11th as part of the USC winter election period.

Sign-Offs:

Board Chairperson Review:	Isaac Jacobi, Chairperson	
USC General Manager Review:	Cathy Clarke, General Manager	
USC President Review:	Matt Helfand	
USC VP Student Events:	Sam Kilgour	
Financial Review:	Carrie Passi, MD Financial Services	
Legislative Review:	Andrew Lalka, Secretary-Treasurer and Scott Courtice, MD Government Services	

