

Assignment 2:1 Research Proposal for a Formal Report

To: Dr. Erika Paterson, Instructor ENGL 301 Technical Writing UBC

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Subject: Proposal for Expanding Financial Aid resources at the University of British Columbia

Introduction

The University of British Columbia (UBC) is known to be a global centre for research and teaching and consistently intakes a large pool of diverse students each year, many of which rely on government financial aid to pay for their schooling. As one of the most prestigious universities in Canada, UBC's tuition is consistently increasing each year for domestic students while exponentially skyrocketing for international students.

With the costs of living in Vancouver, students who come from middle-class households are often left out in many financially-dependent activities, such as going on club trips or study abroad programs. Likewise, most students sacrifice the quality of their education by having to commute long hours to get to and from classes due to the high cost of living near the university's campus. In addition to the university's small amount of financial aid, government-based financial loans only cater to those who are 1) a permanent resident of the province or 2) Canadian citizens, two conditions which often eliminate international students requiring financial aid and/or Canadian immigrants without documentation. These factors work together to create a socio-economic bias in the demographic of university students who can achieve good quality education and university experience.

Statement of Problem

The lack of financial aid in the University of British Columbia creates an economically biased and elitist environment for lower to middle class students to attend university. The major implications of this problem are two: first, in the face of exponentially increasing living costs in Vancouver, the lack of financial aid prevents many potentially successful students from achieving their highest potential; second the university's reputation of high tuition costs and lower financial aid systematically deters lower to middle class applicants from applying to UBC.

Proposed Solution

One possible solution for the lack of financial aid at UBC is to provide more funding for students by redistributing the university's current budgeting. For example, the university provides only a select few scholarships (less than 10) that are actually given with money from the University endowment, an operation that is worth over 2 billion CAD dollar as of March 2021 (UBC 13). While scholarships like the UBC Centennial scholarship can provide a single student with a full ride scholarship to attend university, many students who fall short of the highly restrictive requirements for big scholarships miss out on financial aid.

Likewise, with many of the university's popular figures earning high salaries, such as the university's president, Santa Ono, who makes a whopping 600K annually, a redistribution of university's money towards increasing financial aid will quite possibly be an optimal solution to allowing more students to achieve success and in time will provide the university with a more inclusive reputation.

Scope

To assess the possibility of increasing financial aid at the University of British Columbia, I plan to pursue research in the following areas of inquiry:

1. Who are the possible demographics UBC's financial aid should target?
2. What is the optimal method of distributing UBC's finances?
3. What are the costs of implementing changes to the university's current financial system?
4. What are other universities doing to increasing financial inclusivity that could possibly work in UBC's case?
5. What is the amount of aid the University can financially bear? While remaining to provide quality education and education resources?

6. How large is the demand for increased financial aid?

Methods

My primary data sources will include consultations from the University's Equity and Inclusion Office, the university's branch responsible for promoting equity and diversity, and the AMS student governing board, a democratically elected student government who voices the concerns of the student population. I will also inspect levels of racial and financial demographic bias in UBC's most popular faculties and the level of success of university graduates of varying socioeconomic classes. I will round out my primary research by observing direct financial/budget reports of the University Endowment and the political concerns raised in the AMS' annual meetings.

Secondary sources will include publications of the role of financial aid in the school place, and a review of a study of Vancouver's growing inflation rate (e.g. cost of living, food).

My Qualifications

I'm a current student on financial loans and I have been aware of the university's lack of financial aid since 2016. I also have a degree in Political Science and have created numerous reports on Vancouver and UBC's economic environments.

Conclusion

Action is needed to create a more inclusive and diverse environment at the University of British Columbia and increasing financial aid can help with that. By addressing the six areas of inquiry mentioned earlier, I can determine the success of implementing more financial aid at the university while also proving the feasibility of implementing this goal. With approval, I will begin research at once.

