

Post-Secondary Education Lobbying Principles

Passed: November 21, 2007

Expires: November 21, 2010

Whereas the next federal election is likely less than 12 months away, and;

Whereas the Vancouver Quadra Federal by-election must be called in the next 2 months;

Be it resolved that the AMS approve the following priorities as a foundation for the Society's federal lobbying efforts.

Tuition and Fees:

Principle 1

Recognizing that tuition is one of the many costs incurred by students when attending university, the Alma Mater Society shall commit itself to working with the University, student societies and the appropriate levels of government in developing a long-term, cohesive tuition and funding strategy for post-secondary education.

Principle 2

The Alma Mater Society shall support the development of a provincial, multi-year strategy that provides guarantees of minimum funding levels for universities, and maximum tuition proportion levels for students.

Principle 3

The Alma Mater Society acknowledges the financial pressures of inflation on the cost of education and tuition levels. The Alma Mater Society shall therefore oppose any tuition increase that is in excess of the British Columbia Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), whichever is lesser.

Principle 4

The Alma Mater Society shall oppose any tuition increase or portion of a tuition increase that is stated to exist to raise funds for costs that have been covered by provincial transfers, such as teacher salaries.

Principle 5

The Alma Mater Society recognizes tuition and provincial higher education as a matter of public concern and as a public priority, and thus shall support provincial regulation of tuition fees, and opposes institutionally determined tuition decisions.

Principle 6

The Alma Mater Society shall oppose any tuition or ancillary fee increases which do not maintain accessibility and quality of education offered at post-secondary institutions.

Principle 7

The Alma Mater Society shall oppose the implementation of differential tuition fees for out-of-province students.

Principle 8

The Alma Mater Society shall lobby the University to demonstrate its accountability and fiscal responsibility by providing full and unfettered access for the AMS to the annual budget and financial statements of the University and any subsidiary organizations.

Core Funding**Principle 1**

The Alma Mater Society shall work in collaboration with the University to actively lobby the Provincial Government to obtain budgetary increases for the post-secondary education system of British Columbia.

Principle 2

The Alma Mater Society shall work in collaboration with the University to actively lobby the provincial government to fully fund the mandated increase in the number of post-secondary education spaces at UBC. These spaces must not compromise the existing quality of education at UBC and must expand access to quality education.

Principle 3

The Alma Mater Society shall also work independently to secure higher core funding for post secondary education from the province.

Student Financial Assistance**Principle 1**

The Alma Mater Society shall lobby the Provincial Government to reinstate the Provincial Grant Program to address the current unmet need that students in British Columbia face.

Principle 2

The Alma Mater Society shall call on the University and the relevant levels of government to ensure that sufficient funding is available through scholarships, bursaries, loans and employment options to allow qualified students access to post-secondary education.

Principle 3

Should a tuition increase arise, the Alma Mater Society shall lobby the University and the appropriate levels of government to increase all forms of student financial assistance at a level equivalent to or greater than the level of the tuition increase.

Principle 4

The Alma Mater Society shall lobby for the creation and expansion of provincial and federal loan remission programs.

Research

Principle 1

The Alma Mater Society shall call on the Provincial Government to position itself to secure a full and appropriate share of national research funding, and shall assist the provincial government in any appropriate way of achieving the aforementioned goal.

Principle 2

The Alma Mater Society shall call on the Provincial Government to adhere to Campus 2020 commitments to direct research funding towards the Georgia Strait Research Cluster.