

National Student Affairs

Carleton tuition hikes hit 20%

Chinta Puxley *The Charlton*
Carleton University

In what is becoming an annual tradition, Carleton's Board of Governors is expected to approve tuition increases of up to 20 per cent again for next year.

But how much more money students will have to pay depends on the program they are taking, according to figures to be released at a March 27 Board of Governors meeting.

Programs have been evaluated according to what it costs to run them and how much they are in demand. Some programs, like computer science and international business, are facing hikes of 20 per cent, while arts and social science programs are going up 8.6 per cent.

Since Spruce Riordon, vice-president finance and administration, President Richard Van Loon and the board's financial committee are all endorsing the increases, it is likely the full board will support them as well.

"Generally, I wouldn't make a recommendation to the board on something this serious unless I had a pretty good idea that they would support it, and unless I thought that it was very important that they support it," says Van Loon.

The Ontario government has given universities the option to hike tuition 10 per cent across the board and 20 per cent in each individual program.

But Van Loon says the provincial government has painted universities into a corner by cutting education grants, giving him no choice but to hike tuition.

"I sure don't relish the idea of going to the Board of Governors and asking for tuition fee increases, because I know

it's really hard on students, but we've been put in this position by the Ontario government," says Van Loon.

"I can't operate the institution and provide the kind of education that we need to provide for people unless we have some increase in revenues."

Riordon echoes Van Loon's complaints, saying Carleton's provincial grant was cut last year by \$13.5 million down to \$77 million, making tuition increases necessary.

"We have to make that up," he says. "(The tuition increases) won't do that, but it's a small step towards that."

But Alka Tandan, a student representative on the board, says the \$13.5-million grant cut was the excuse for raising tuition last year.

"They are continuing to neglect their main clientele," she says.

"What happens to a business when you neglect your main clientele? You go bankrupt."

Christian Dallaire, president of the Carleton University Students' Association and student representative on the board, says he and CUSA vice-president academic Jeff Jakobsen are going to try to fight the tuition increases. At the meeting, Dallaire says they plan to present Van Loon with proof that the hikes hurt the university and students.

"It will pass but it won't pass without a fight," says Dallaire.

"At least we can educate a few more people in there."

Although the higher price tag

attached to education may deter students from applying, Van Loon says he doesn't expect the tuition hikes to keep students from enrolling at Carleton next year.

"So far, there isn't any indication that enrolment has been affected very much by tuition fee increases."

Van Loon is quick to point out not all of the revenue will be going straight into the university treasury. He says three per cent of every 10 per cent increase has to go back into "scholarships and bursaries for lower-income students."

Although he admits this doesn't solve the question of accessible education, he says it makes "some difference."

But Allen Moscovitch, the director of the School of Social Work, says the 12-per-cent increase in his department will make the program inaccessible to working-class and lower-income students.

"It's bound to make education inaccessible down the road," he says. "It's a small differential but it's all part of making university more costly."

He says it puts programs like social work in a difficult position because the program tries to attract people who come from working-class and lower-income backgrounds. Moscovitch says making university more expensive discourages poorer students from applying.

"They're putting tuition fees up to balance the books, but they are discouraging students from applying," says Moscovitch. "I would not want to see them excluded from the university."

The Charlton Online
<http://www.charlton.carleton.ca>

After tendering his resignation Brock's Business Manager Stays on

MIKE FISHER, *The Brock Press*
Brock University

After a number of weeks of positive change in BUSU, Business Manager Ron Gourlay has rescinded his resignation.

The reversal comes nearly four weeks after he announced his resignation to council citing a number of problems within the structure of BUSU as reasons for his decision. Since then a number of steps have been taken to remedy the situation.

At the last meeting of the Brock University Student Administrative Council (BUSAC), a list of recommendations were presented by the Policy and Procedures committee which had been struck to investigate allegations of wrong-doing against VP Finance and Administration, Lisa McDonald. As part of their investigation, Gourlay was asked to testify.

At the investigation, Gourlay offered a long list of recommendations which were later presented to council. Those suggestions were heard and a Human Resources working group was struck to look into them. In the two weeks since that meeting all issues have been addressed and a number researched. The Human Resources group has also sought to defer a few issues that cannot be properly addressed in the time that remains this year.

These positive changes, as Gourlay sees them, are only part of what made him decide to stay on. He closely watched the recent elections, not because he supported any particular

candidate, but because he was interested in how the elected executives would respond to what has occurred.

According to Gourlay, Jason Coolman and Jeff Mason the President-elect and VP Finance and Administration-elect respectively approached him right away to discuss the situation and made it clear that they wanted Gourlay to remain.

Gourlay was also pleased to see that the constitutional amendments were finally passed through referendum. The changes to the constitution allow changes to occur more quickly.

In order for the restructuring of BUSU to continue, Gourlay sees it now as being "as much up to me as it is up to them," referring to the BUSU executive and BUSAC.

Commenting on the support he received from students, Gourlay stated, "I can't get over the outpouring of student support, it blew me away," referring to both what was said about him in council as well as comments he received from people and students around the university.

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