



M E M O R A N D U M

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brett Fairbairn".

TO: Dr. Brett Fairbairn, President and Vice-Chancellor

FROM: Dr. Gillian Balfour, Provost and Vice-President Academic
Chair, Budget Committee of Senate
Mr. Matt Milovick, Vice-President, Administration and Finance

DATE: February 11, 2025

RE: Notice of Motion: 2025/26 Domestic Tuition and Other Fees Increase

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to provide **notice of motion** that a decision item will be brought to the next board meeting to increase tuition and other fees for domestic students as described below.

The proposed increase would be effective for Fall 2025. Notice of motion provides for a period for consultation, further analysis, and any refinement as needed between now and the next meeting. The rationale for the proposed increase is described below.

Background: TRU reviews its tuition and other fees annually. The Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills (PSEFS) declared in 2007 that domestic tuition and other fees may be increased by a maximum of 2% per annum. To Administration's knowledge, as a practice, every university in BC increases their fees by the maximum permissible. Administration is not aware of any deviations from this practice.

Discussion: Administration is recommending that domestic tuition and other fees be increased by 2% (the maximum allowable by PSEFS) for the 2025/26 academic year.

- **Risks:**
 - The risk to not increasing tuition and other fees is that PSEFS does not allow Universities to "catch up" if they decide not to increase rates each year. If the institution decides to forgo its annual increase, that increase is lost in perpetuity.

- There is no competitive disadvantage to increasing tuition and other fees.
- **Budgetary Implications:**
 - The proposed increase for domestic tuition and other fees will help to offset inflationary costs at the University. The increase does not cover the full cost of inflation anticipated for fiscal year 2025/26.
- **Consultation:**
 - The Budget Committee of Senate received a notice of motion regarding the proposed increase on January 14, 2025.
 - At their meeting on February 11, 2025, the Budget Committee of Senate moved to recommend to the President to recommend to the Board that they approve the proposed increase.
 - Senate was apprised of the proposed increase on January 27, 2025.
- **Communications Approach:**
 - TRU is committed to promptly and accurately informing our student community about upcoming tuition fee increases. Our approach is centred on proactive communication and collaboration with key departments such as Enrolment Services and Future Students.
 - We are dedicated to ensuring that students receive comprehensive information through various channels, allowing them to plan effectively and access necessary support. Our aim is to maintain trust and openness with our students by ensuring they are well-informed.
 - Specific communication tactics include:
 - *Collaboration Between Enrolment Services / Future Students* — These departments work together to ensure a unified and informed approach in conveying fee changes to future students, using various methods and channels to reach students as needed.
 - *Website Communication* — TRU uses website technology to convey tuition information to students, especially future students looking to study at TRU. These websites are updated as soon as tuition increases are approved. These websites include tuition calculators to assist students in assessing real costs associated with their studies:

<https://www.tru.ca/current/enrolment-services/tuition.html>

<https://www.tru.ca/future/tuition/costs.html>

<https://www.tru.ca/future/tuition/details.html>

<https://www.tru.ca/current/enrolment-services/tuition/graduate-tuition-calculation.html>

- *Support Services and Financial Aid Information* — The Student Awards and Financial Aid Department provides information to students about tuition and available financial support and aid to help them navigate educational costs, including fee increases.

Recommendation(s): Administration is recommending that the Board of Governors approve the increase of domestic tuition and other fees by 2% for the 2025/26 academic year. Administration is proposing the following recommendation to achieve that approval:

RESOLVED that the university will:

1. Increase domestic tuition for all courses and programs, including vocational, that lead to academic credit at Thompson Rivers University (face-to-face and open learning) as per the Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills guidelines (at 2.0%).
2. Increase all ancillary and other student fees as per the Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills guidelines (at 2.0%). A partial list of the fees includes the following:
 - Lab fees
 - Student computer lab fees (face-to-face)
 - Technology fees (Open Learning)
 - Athletics and recreation fees
 - Capital building fund
 - Open learning course administration fees and other mandatory fees
 - University activity fees
 - Comprehensive university enhancement fund

If you are in agreement, we would ask that you place this item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Board of Governors.

Thank you.