

media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New block funding allows for three-year budget planning at UCC

KAMLOOPS - The new process of block grant funding, with a three-year commitment from the Government of B.C., will allow institutions to plan for the future and is the driving force behind budget and tuition fee processes at UCC, the Board of Governors outlined today.

In its first official meeting since the appointment of eight new members last month, the UCC Board reviewed preliminary budget figures from the new block grant funding and outlined a comprehensive package of government expectations, program growth strategies, new student support initiatives, and a revised approach to setting tuition fees.

Three-Year Block Funding: A block funding grant based on expectations for the overall number of students and new program growth based on provincial priorities, along with three-year funding allocations is a positive step that allows UCC to become more strategic in planning budgets, programs and fees over the next three years.

Ministry Expectations: In the budget letter, the Ministry of Advanced Education has outlined specific program growth and funding allocations for the next three years, including:

- Confirmation that Adult Basic Education courses will continue to be delivered tuition-free.
- The expectation that UCC will deliver an overall increase of some 500 student spaces by the end of fiscal 2004/2005.

Maintaining and expanding student spaces: To meet expectations for student capacity, the UCC budget for the coming year will include:

- An ongoing commitment to maintaining a comprehensive range of programs at UCC.
- A continued commitment to maintain the highest standards of quality in UCC programs.
- Increased access to undergraduate university programs through the introduction of weekend scheduling better suited for part-time study and working adult students.
- The addition of student spaces in New Era priority programs, including Nursing, Respiratory Therapy, Home Support/Resident Care, Social Work, and Computing Sciences.
- Expanded library access and support services to enhance undergraduate programs.

T H E U N I V E R S I T Y C O L L E G E O F T H E C A R I B O O

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Student Financial Support: To assist students impacted by tuition fee increases, UCC will commit more than \$500,000 in the coming year to student financial assistance, including an extra \$250,000 in bursary funds as well as allocations for emergency student loans, work study, and increased support for the fund-raising efforts of the UCC Foundation.

New Tuition Fee Structure: With the repeal of the tuition freeze, the UCC Board will be given the authority to set tuition fees, including differential fees on a program-by-program basis. For the 2002-2003 budget year, the Board has served notice of motion:

- To increase tuition fees for university and career/technology program to \$80 per credit.
- To increase tuition fees for vocational programs to \$240 per month.
- To increase international student fees to \$4,485 per semester, guaranteed for at least three semesters for current students and new students arriving this fall; and a further increase to \$5,250 per semester for new students arriving in January 2003 or later.

Comprehensive University Fund:

- Effective September 1, 2002, an additional \$5 per credit (and equivalent for vocational programs) to be assessed for domestic students to support a Comprehensive University Fund. This fund is to allow UCC to match the kinds of services and supports to all students and faculty that are found in undergraduate institutions across Canada.

Having served notice of motion to allow for input on the proposed fees over the next month, the Board of Governors will not finalize tuition fees until their April meeting. However, tuition fees for upcoming summer session courses that start in May will be based on rates proposed in today's notice of motion from the Board.

- For more information, please contact Josh Keller, UCC Director of Public Relations, at 828-5008

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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED TUITION FEE INCREASES

University Degree Programs: \$80.00 per credit (frozen in 1995/1996 at \$61.60 per credit [Upper level] and \$41.00 per credit [Lower level]).

Students in Years 3 - 5:

- An increase of \$ 55.20 per course.
- A total increase of \$276 per semester for a full-time student taking five courses.

Students in Years 1 - 2:

- An increase of \$117 per course.
- A total increase of \$ 585 per semester for a full-time student taking five courses.

Career/Technology Programs: \$80 per credit (frozen in 1995/1996 at \$41.00 / credit)

Full-time students:

- An increase of \$ 117.00 per course. The total increase varies depending on the number of courses and total credits in each program.

Vocational and Trades Programs:

Full-time Students: \$240 month (frozen in 1995/1996 at \$131/ month)

- An increase of \$109 per month. The total increase depends on the length of the program, which varies from five to nine months.

Part-time students: \$ 120 month (frozen in 1995/1996 at \$ 65.50 / month)

- An increase of \$54.50 per month.

International Student Tuition Fees: \$4,485 per semester (currently \$3,800/semester)

- An increase of \$ 685 per semester.

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