



Office of the Board of Governors
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April 13, 2016

Okanagan College Student Union
Kelowna Campus
Kelowna, B.C.
Attention: Chelsea Grisch and Brianne Berchowitz
By email: grisch@ocsu.ca; berchowitz@ocsu.ca

Dear Chelsea and Brianne,

This letter is a little tardy, but I trust that conversations with Board members and our administrators have already conveyed the message that I wish to communicate here.

Nearly every member of our Board has told me (some repeatedly) how impressed they were with the quality, thoughtfulness, thoroughness and passion demonstrated by the Okanagan College Students' Union submissions during the Board's tuition deliberations earlier this year.

The submissions had effect as well, and I hope you see it reflected in the 2016-17 budget, and in how the College has approached implementing tuition fees for Adult Basic Education and English as A Second Language programs and courses.

As per your group's recommendation, the 2016-17 budget includes commitment for additional institutional financial aid for ABE and ESL students, to supplement the funding available through the province's Adult Upgrading Grant. As well, we are adding more financial aid personnel to assist students with completing financial aid applications. This will not only benefit ABE and ESL students, but we anticipate that it will be an improved service available to all students at all campuses.

We are also engaging in a focused communication campaign that draws on social media channels to ensure students know about the aid available to them.

The concern demonstrated by your executive and organization for your members, and the interest you exhibit in the continued health and development of Okanagan College, is welcomed by our Board.

Thank you again for your presentation and participation.

Sincerely,

Connie Denesiuk
Chair