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March 16, 2026

Patti McDougall  
Interim Provost and VP Academic  
University of Saskatchewan

Jennifer Beck,  
Chief Resource Allocation and Planning Officer  
University of Saskatchewan

Dear Dr. McDougall and Jennifer Beck,

Having served on the Fee Review Committee throughout the 2025-26 academic year, I write to express significant concerns about the volume and communication of new and revised student fees for the upcoming academic year. While a large portion of these are nominal and provide only partial cost recovery to the institution, many students will be caught off guard by these costs.

Several members of the committee have noted that, in years past, they reviewed and considered approximately 30 fees. This year, however, over 200 new or revised fees were directed to the committee, including department- or school-wide fees. Committee members have stated that this is an unsustainable rate and that they feel overwhelmed by the number of proposals within the short timeframes available to review them.

Appendix D of the [Tuition and Fees Authorization Policy](#) lists the university's guiding principles for student tuition consultation as:

- Timing and Accessibility;
- Transparency; and
- Inclusiveness and Participation.

In particular, beneath the lattermost principle, the policy provides that "Students have an indication of tuition for the following year." Students do, indeed, have the ability to search for and confirm tuition rates for courses. Information such as the [Tuition Fact Sheet](#) allows this. Course- and program-based fees, however, are not included in this factsheet, nor are they included in course registration notes or easily accessible online. Within Banner, affected courses note that they include a fee, but most do not list the amount.

In an increasingly challenging economic environment, students deserve predictability in their costs. The addition or revision of over 200 fees, and especially the lack of transparency about how students can learn about them, do not promote predictability. Going forward, the USSU requests the following:

### **Increased Support for the Fee Review Committee**

- Consider implementing, within the [FRC Terms of Reference](#), a limit on the number of fees considered at each meeting, or include in the terms a requirement to stagger proposals to allow members more time to review them; and
- Hold orientation meetings for student representatives from the USSU and GSA, as well as new committee members, early in their terms to introduce them to the FRC, its functions, and processes.

### **Greater Fee Transparency**

- Include fee amounts and descriptions in Banner and throughout fact sheets, course/program communications, and other financial communication tools;
- Publicize the FRC Working Group's Terms of Reference, as these appear not to be available online, despite the group being responsible for ensuring proposed fees are actionable; and
- Share information about fee increases, additions, and removals through PAWS, the university website, and other sources, such as town hall meetings;
- Publicize decisions from Fee Review Committee meetings in a catalogue, as required by the Terms of Reference. This catalogue ought to include a fee's name, amount, purpose, and effective term; and
- Prepare a new policy or an amendment to the Tuition and Fees Authorization Policy to provide clearer information on how the institution will communicate fees to students.

### **Consultation with and Inclusion of Students**

- Consult with affected college societies/unions when the university levies fees in or across specific colleges/schools;
- Consult with the [Association of Constituency Presidents \(AOCP\)](#) in addition to the USSU and/or GSA when the institution assesses fees on all or most students based on enrollment (i.e., compulsory fees such as the student well-being and services fee); and
- Reintroduce the [Student Forum](#), with particular focus on how tuition and fees impact the student experience.

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Implementing these recommendations would provide students with greater financial predictability and closely align with the three principles outlined in the Tuition and Fees Authorization Policy. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate on improving these processes.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen Deis', is written in a cursive style.

**Owen Deis**

Vice-President (Operations & Finance)  
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