

I have more faith in a shadow than in the University

University lies about graduate tuition increases

Tu·i·tion (*n.*) 1. A fee for instruction, especially at a formal institution of learning.

Do you believe that graduate tuition is only going up 15% this year? (30% for international graduate students.) I hate to be the bearer of bad news: **the decision announced in January 2003 will increase graduate tuition 37 to 69%!**

On January 6th, 2003, the University of Victoria Board of Governors (BOG) announced a supposed 15 and 30% tuition increase for domestic and international graduate students, respectively (herein labeled 15|30%). Also included in this announcement was an increase to the number of terms that a graduate student is required to pay under the “full registration fee” before switching to the “re-registration fee.” On analysis, though, it is immediately obvious that the re-registration fee did not go up 15%; it went from \$399 to \$545, an increase of 37%. The increase for international graduate students is 55%. Additionally, the increased number of terms in which graduate students pay full registration fees means that tuition over the course of a degree program has increased significantly more than 15|30%. What went up 15|30%? Only the full registration fee.

A detailed analysis is given in the Tables below. The years, 2 to 3 for a Master’s degree and 5 to 7 for a Ph.D. degree, reflect the typical duration of graduate programs in North America. The highlighted numbers at the bottom say it all. Compare the *ACTUAL* vs. *ANNOUNCED Increases*. The increase in 2002 was a true, across-the-board, 30% increase. In 2003, the University has increased tuition by

52% for domestic Master’s students	(announced as 15%)
38% for domestic Ph.D. students	(announced as 15%)
69% for international Master’s students	(announced as 30%)
56% for international Ph.D. students	(announced as 30%)

The actual tuition increases in 2003 are **DOUBLE to TRIPLE the published values!!**

It is very interesting to note that there has been a fee differential for international graduate students since before 2001. There is no mention of it in University Calendars from these years. The January 6th announcement inferred that the differential was new. It’s not. And it just got bigger.

Year	Term
1	1
	2
	3
2	4
	5
	6
3	7
	8
	9

Domestic Tuition (Master's)			
2001	2002	2003	
918	1 193	1 372	
918	1 193	1 372	
918	1 193	1 372	
918	1 193	1 372	
459	597	1 372	
0	0	1 372	
307	399	545	
307	399	545	
307	399	545	
			Cumul.
4 130	5 369	30.0%	8 232 53.3% 99.3%
5 051	6 566	30.0%	9 867 50.3% 95.4%

International Tuition (Master's)			
2001	2002	2003	
966	1 256	1 633	
966	1 256	1 633	
966	1 256	1 633	
966	1 256	1 633	
483	628	1 633	
0	0	1 633	
323	420	545	
323	420	545	
323	420	545	
			Cumul.
4 347	5 651	30.0%	9 795 73.3% 125.3%
5 316	6 911	30.0%	11 430 65.4% 115.0%

ACTUAL Increase: 30.0% 51.8% 97.3%

ANNOUNCED Increase: 30.0% 15.0% 49.5%

30.0% 69.4% 120.2%

30.0% 30.0% 69.0%

Year	Term
1	1
	...
2	6
	7
3	8
	9
4	10
	11
7	20
	21

Domestic Tuition (Ph.D.)			
2001	2002	2003	
918	1 193	1 372	
918	1 193	1 372	
...	
918	1 193	1 372	
918	1 193	1 372	
459	597	1 372	
0	0	1 372	
307	399	545	
307	399	545	
...	
307	399	545	
307	399	545	
			Cumul.
9 335	12 136	30.0%	16 445 35.5% 76.2%
11 177	14 531	30.0%	19 715 35.7% 76.4%

International Tuition (Ph.D.)			
2001	2002	2003	
966	1 256	1 633	
966	1 256	1 633	
...	
966	1 256	1 633	
966	1 256	1 633	
483	628	1 633	
0	0	1 633	
323	420	650	
323	420	650	
...	
323	420	650	
323	420	650	
			Cumul.
9 826	12 774	30.0%	19 575 53.2% 99.2%
11 764	15 293	30.0%	23 475 53.5% 99.6%

ACTUAL Increase: 30.0% 35.6% 76.3%

ANNOUNCED Increase: 30.0% 15.0% 49.5%

30.0% 53.4% 99.4%

30.0% 30.0% 69.0%

How is this affecting you? If you are paying re-registration fees, you will see an immediate 37/55% increase in your summer tuition. If you are paying full fees, you will see the increase because you have to pay full fees for more terms *and* then the re-registration fees that went up 37/55%. The University announced in 2002 that tuition fees were going to double in three years. A look at the Cumulative values show that Domestic Master's, International Master's, and International Ph.D. graduate students will receive this present early.

If the BOG is going to raise graduate tuition by 37 to 69%, they should have the decency to say so. Yet they announce a 15/30% tuition increase.

- Lie (n.)** 1. A false statement deliberately presented as being true; a falsehood.
2. Something meant to deceive or give a wrong impression.

How does UVic rank nationally? Domestic full registration fees in 2002 shows that UVic is 11th highest of 27 similarly sized institutions (source: Statistics Canada). SFU and UBC are 18th and 19th, respectively. **We pay \$921 more per year than graduate students at UBC, and our fees just went up 37 to 69%! Graduate students at UVic are paid \$17.49 per hour to TA. Our counterparts at UBC and SFU make \$24.01 and \$26.76 per hour, respectively; TAs in Ontario average \$32 per hour. We pay more in tuition and earn less in wages.** In case you were wondering, cost of living in Victoria is comparable to Burnaby (SFU). On the brighter side, . . . sorry, there is no brighter side.

What's with the full and re-registration fees? UVic Administration has a price tag for a graduate degree. That price tag is the sum of all the *full registration fees*. Anything above that (re-registration fees) is gravy. When was the last time you heard of a person getting a Ph.D. degree in under three years? 1970s? A Master's degree in 16 months might be achievable, but is well below the national average. *If* the University wanted to be reasonable, it could spread that price over the normal completion time for the degree: two years for a Master's degree and six years for a Ph.D. degree. If a student were to finish earlier, an existing policy would apply: the student would pay the remainder of the full registration fees. With this fairer system, the Administration isn't so blatantly fleecing their graduate students.

UNDERGRADS: thinking about grad school? Many graduate universities in the US give *full tuition waivers*. Yes, even to Canadians.

What does the Administration have to say for themselves? My emails to several UVic administrators in early February have not been answered. On March 3rd and 6th, I emailed the BOG, asking them to guarantee that I will only pay an additional 15% in tuition next term as per their announcement on January 6th. The BOG—the de facto responsible body at UVic—buried their heads in the sand. The *University secretary* responded on behalf of the BOG with, “The budget approved by the Board included a 15% lift on the per term fees...”

WAIT A MINUTE! The University secretary wrote, “...a 15% lift on the per term fees...” There is something wrong here. Re-registration fees are slated to go up 37|55%!? I plan to have a copy of the University

secretary's email and pay only 15% more next term. The secretary's statement is general and applies to everyone's per term fees. Is anyone else interested in a copy?

My question to the BOG: "Was the BOG ignorant to the actual increases in graduate tuition, or did they lie?"

What else can we do about it?

- Email the BOG and let them know how you feel about being misled. (see below)
- Email Dr. David Turpin, the University President (dturpin@uvic.ca), and ask for a letter guaranteeing that your tuition fees will only go up 15%.
- Support the UBC graduate students in their demand for a tuition waiver. (Tuition waivers are common at US universities.)
- Support the GSS and CUPE 4163 in action they take to obtain a just resolution to this tuition issue, in obtaining tuition waivers, and a TA contract to bring us on par with UBC and SFU.
- The University has made it *impossible* to obtain a graduate degree, especially a Ph.D., for the Universities advertised price tag. *Anyone interested in coordinating a legal challenge?*

The Excel file detailing the tuition increases and the BOG email addresses are available from

www.consol.ca (my website)
web.uvic.ca/~gss (Graduate Students' Society)
www.CUPE4163.ca (CUPE 4163)

A BOG distribution list has been set up. Any email sent to BOG@consol.ca will automatically be forwarded to all members of the University of Victoria Board of Governors. For a copy of the email verifying that per term fees will only increase 15%, send an email to tuition@consol.ca.

Roy Jensen

The Church says that the world is flat but I know that it is round for I have seen its shadow on the moon and I have more faith in a shadow than in the Church.

Ferdinand Magellan