

**POLICY TITLE: CREDIT PROGRAM TUITION FEE ADJUSTMENT
POLICY**

Effective Date: May 15, 2010

Revised:

Policy Statement

The Board will establish, authorize, communicate and review tuition fees for credit programs in a consistent, transparent and accountable manner.

1. Authority

Tuition and ancillary fees are de-regulated in the Yukon. Under the Yukon College Act, fees “which the College recognizes as credit towards a degree, diploma or certificate conferred by the College shall be established by the board in accordance with a fee policy adopted by the board and approved by the Minister.”¹

2. Rationale and Context

The 2008-2013 Yukon College Strategic Plan aims to achieve an enrolment goal of 650 full time and 750 part time students by 2013, ensuring that the College is a destination institution and remains responsive to the community. To achieve these goals, in part, the plan identified detailed objectives that require a strong financial base including:

- 2.1 Establish programs to increase knowledge and skills of First Nations in the implementation of First Nation governance, in collaboration with First Nations;
- 2.2 Increase the number of relevant and meaningful courses and programs at the community level;
- 2.3 Enhance educational technology so that students have easy access to courses and programs they require;
- 2.4 Support an active student life and provide effective transition support for students entering the College.

In order to achieve these objectives, it was recognized that additional resources, additional staff and predictable funding would be required.

In 2008, the Board of Governors recommended that tuition fees be raised beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition fees, which had been frozen since 2003 and were among the lowest in Canada at the time, were raised from \$50 per credit course to \$75 per credit course for the 2009-2010 school year.

¹ Yukon College Act as amended, May 2009. paras 1(f) and 2.

The increase reflected a 2002 Board of Governors commitment, reaffirmed in 2008, to the principle of setting annual tuition fees at Yukon College such that tuition fees not exceed the lowest one third of similarly sized colleges in western and/or northern Canada.

At that time, a policy was sought to provide guidance to the Board of Governors and information to students regarding tuition fee adjustments over the coming years.

3 Guiding Principles

The following principles have been agreed by the Yukon College Board of Governors regarding the setting of tuition fees for students:

1. There is a shared responsibility between students and society for contributing to post-secondary education due to the subsequent and inherent benefits to both.
2. Universal accessibility for all students regardless of income is a critical tenet - that no qualified applicant be turned away from participating in post-secondary education because of inability to contribute to tuition and other related expenses. Yukon College will ensure that every applicant has access to a Financial Aid Officer to help them identify appropriate funding sources.
3. Consultation with students and other funding partners is critical to the process of setting tuition fees. Process of consultation completed and tuition increase approved at the February Board of Governor's meeting for the following academic year.

4 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to define how tuition fees for credit programs will be established in a consistent fair and equitable manner over time to ensure funding and budgeting predictability.

This policy applies to credit^b programs only, that is, students ^cenrolled in diploma, degree or certificate programs with the exception of those programs and students indicated in ***Section 5 – Exclusions*** below. Students, for the purposes of this policy, include Canadian and Alaskan students. International students and senior students will be addressed separately below.

This policy ensures that tuition fees are set in accordance with Board approved policy and that the Board is accountable to the students for changes in tuition fee levels. This policy ensures that credit program tuition fees are properly established, authorized, communicated and reviewed.

^b A credit is the equivalent of fifteen hours of course delivery. Academic Regulations.

^c "Student" means a person enrolled as a student of the College. Yukon College Act as amended May 2009. Section 1.

Fees that may be assessed for ancillary products and services including: application fee, student union fee, technology fee, transcript fee, athletic fees, library fees, laboratory and materials fees, books, food, parking, residence and other fees are outside the scope of this policy. Such fees will be set according to a separate policy and communicated to students as per tuition increases (Item 3.4)

5 Exclusions

An international student is a person who is studying in Canada either on a study permit, or if in Canada for less than 6 months, on a visitor visa. The international student definition also extends to a person studying in Canada, while on a working holiday visa.

Yukon College tuition fees for international students, while aiming to remain in the lower one-third for similar institutions in western and northern Canada to ensure competitive advantage, are responsive to external market conditions. As such, tuition fees are reviewed annually by the International office and recommended adjustments are forwarded to the President for approval. Approved tuition rates are implemented in time for the fall intake and are not subject to the terms of this policy.

Application and tuition fees are waived for Canadians aged 65 or over for credit courses. The terms of this policy, therefore, do not apply to senior students.

Yukon College charges differential fees for diploma, degree or certificate programs in which the College is a collaborative partner with other Canadian universities and colleges. Tuition fees may be set by the degree-issuing institution and, as such, are not subject to this policy.

6 Policy Formula

Consistent with the agreed principle of setting tuition fees at Yukon College such that tuition fees not exceed the lowest one third of similarly sized colleges in western and/or northern Canada, tuition fees for students in diploma, degree, or certificate programs, pending a review of this policy, will be adjusted annually for the fall intake utilizing the following parameters:

6.1 Institutions

The institutions chosen for inclusion in the policy formula are western and/or northern Canadian colleges of similar size to Yukon College with a similar complement of programs. There are twelve institutions in total, including: Grande Prairie Regional College (Alberta), Medicine Hat College (Alberta), Lethbridge College (Alberta), Keyano College (Alberta), College of New Caledonia (BC), Lakeland College (BC), Northern Lights College (BC), Selkirk College (BC), Aurora College (NWT), Nunavut Arctic College (Nunavut), Northlands College (Saskatchewan) and Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (Saskatchewan).

6.2 Program Complement

For the purposes of creating an “average” overall annual tuition fee for each of the above noted institutions, the following program costs are included in the calculation: Business Administration, Office Administration, Computer Technology, Tourism, Early Childhood Development, Practical Nursing, Trades, Culinary, Renewable Resources, Arts and Sciences. All programs are equally weighted in the averaging. In those instances where an institution does not have all of the above-noted programs, the average is calculated on the total number of above-noted programs it does have.

6.3 Timeframe

All calculations to determine the current year’s tuition fees are based on the averages of the previous year’s tuition fees for all included institutions and programs.

6.4 Placement

Based on the list created by the calculation of each institution’s previous year’s average tuition fees, Yukon College tuition fees for the current year will be set at a level that ensures that the College is in the top range of the bottom third of the twelve chosen institutions, when ranked from highest to lowest fees.

7 Procedure

Once the Minister of Education has approved the Credit Program Tuition Fee Adjustment Policy, The Board will approve any tuition fee change at the February board meeting to be implemented the following academic year.

8 Communication and Promotion

Students, potential students, parents/guardians and funding agencies need reliable information regarding the cost of programs of instruction to be able to plan for post-secondary education. As such, Yukon College will communicate annual tuition fees rates and changes to the Yukon public each year. Tuition rates will normally be published by Yukon College and accessible on the Yukon College website.

9 Financial Commitment

Yukon College is committed to spending revenues wisely. Cost increases are inevitable and affect all college enterprises. The priority of the college is to ensure that, as much as possible, any new resources are directed to enhancing students’ experiences and the overall quality of their education.

10 New Programming

The College may set the initial tuition fees for any new instructional programs including degrees granted by Yukon College for the first year of that program. After the first year, the tuition fee will be subject to the terms of this policy, noting the parameters of 6.4.

11 Policy Review

The "Credit Program Tuition Fee Adjustment Policy" will be reviewed after 2012-2013 academic year.

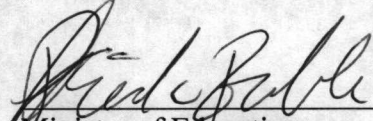
Scope and Limitations of the President (Not applicable).

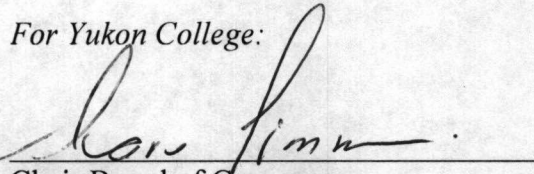
Information and Monitoring Requirements (Not applicable).

Agreed by the parties:

For the Department of Education:

For Yukon College:


Minister of Education


Chair Board of Governors

June 5 2010
Date

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Date