



FÉUO - SFUO
FÉDÉRATION ÉTUDIANTE
de l'Université d'Ottawa
STUDENT FEDERATION
of the University of Ottawa

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OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

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Indebted to Fees Plea for Accessible and Quality Education

This past Monday, May 28, 2018 at 5:30pm, the University of Ottawa's Board of Governors convened to adopt the 2018-2019 budget. Saada Hussien, along with the support of Jamie Ghossein, our two undergraduate student representatives moved an emergency motion recommending a 0% tuition fee increase for both domestic and international students. This amendment was meant to halt an already recommended tuition fee increase motion proposed by the UofO's Vice President Resources, Marc Joyal. It failed. Unfortunately for us, our tuition fees were increased for the thirteenth consecutive year by a majority of our non-peers. All three undergraduate and graduate student representatives collectively voted against this increase along with a non-student board member who may have had a change of heart after hearing our very own Vice-President External, Paige Booth make a motivated speech on behalf of students.

So, what exactly does this tuition increase mean for us? It means tuition fees for domestic students will increase by 3% which is the maximum amount allowed by the province of Ontario, international students already studying at UOttawa will have tuition increased by 5.5% and incoming International students will be charged 15% more; while our quality of education is decreasing with understaffing and service cuts. Education was already inaccessible enough.

Currently - hundreds of students log into the SFUO Food Bank on a monthly basis and even more seek out mental health resources and support due to the simple resolution that we cannot afford to live a quality life while studying and striving for brighter futures at our institution. No wonder the University of Ottawa has one of the lowest student satisfaction results in the country; we are exhausted of being the one stop solution to the administration's budgetary problems as they exploit us year after year all while claiming they are doing the best they can while we cash out the big bucks. Students are not the problem. Trying to obtain an education is not wrong. So why punish us year after year? Why not do what you are suggesting for us to do, President Frémont, and bring this to the province to fight on behalf of students as the President and Vice Chancellor of this University? Why not lobby the Federal and Provincial government on our behalf if you truly care about the wellbeing of students on your campus?

Every year members of the Canadian Federation of Students, the SFUO included, lobby Federal and Provincial government officials for accessible and quality post-secondary



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education. We will continue to do so and expect you to keep your word and support us. We cannot and will not just wait around for this institution to increase our fees for the fourteenth year in May 2019. Please join us, in this fight to freeze and eventually eliminate tuition fees in volunteering for our campaigns department so we may be able to do the necessary work of continuing to breakdown the University budget to suggest new strategies and alternatives to the University of Ottawa administration all while holding them accountable and reminding them that we, the students are not just a number but we are real people, with real lives and real obstacles that cannot be taken advantage of. If it means doing their job for them just so we can see some effective change in our education and our wallet then so be it! We demand high-quality accessible education and we need it now!

Sincerely,

President, Rizki Rachiq – president@sfuo.ca

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Campaigns, Emmanuelle Auguste – activist@sfuo.ca