

Policy Manual

Issues Policy

Issues Policy 10 (IS-10): Flat Tuition Fees

Adopted by: Board of Directors

Adopted on: September 09, 2014

Summary:

Flat fees are standard tuition fees charged to students for enrolment regardless of the actual number of credits taken. Under a flat fee model, students who take less than the institutionally defined maximum credit load are still charged for courses that they don't take. For students who do not, or cannot, take a full course load, a flat fee model imposes extra tuition fee costs.

At Thompson Rivers University flat fees have historically been charged to international students, denying those students the same course selection opportunities as domestic students. In addition, flat fees impose another barrier on other groups of marginalized students such as students living with disabilities, students who are parents or caregivers, and students that are economically disadvantaged who have to work during the school year.

Policy:

- I. The Union supports:
 - a. Increased accessibility of post-secondary education through the assessment of tuition fees strictly on a per credit basis;
 - b. Students' right to determine the rate at which they complete post-secondary programs without being financially penalized for taking less than a full credit load;
- II. The Union opposes:
 - a. Flat tuition fee models that charge a standard fee for enrolment, regardless of the actual number of courses taken;
 - b. The financial penalization and marginalization of part-time students who cannot, or chose not to, complete an institutionally-defined full credit load;