

**Office of the President**

**To: All staff and faculty**

**From: Feridun Hamdullahpur, President**

**Date: February 24, 2011**

**Re: The President's Quarterly  
Waterloo Community Update**

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This is my second update to the campus community. Our Board of Governors met in early February.

I invite you to take a look at the environmental scan I presented to the board:

<http://www.uwaterloo.ca/accountability/documents/02-01-11BoardofGovernorsEnvironmentalScanfinal.ppt>

The board approved undergraduate and graduate tuition fees for 2011-2012. For our Canadian undergraduates already in university, fees will increase by 4 per cent this year. For new students in regulated programs, fees will increase by 4.5 per cent. Deregulated programs, such as architecture, engineering, computer science, optometry and pharmacy, will see increases of 6.5 per cent for new domestic students. Fees for most international and graduate students will rise by 3 per cent.

We are sensitive to the issue of increased tuition rates in an environment where we have made attempts to control costs, with the provincially mandated salary freeze being just one example. This increase in revenue will be used to help us achieve our Sixth Decade goals of improving the student experience and continuing to offer academic programs of excellent quality. The establishment of the Office of Student Success, improvements to support our international students, efforts to improve our student faculty ratio, and our continuing commitment to student financial aid to ensure that money is not a barrier to studying at this university, are all key elements we consider when allocating this income. In his update, Provost Geoff McBoyle noted that this year almost seven per cent of our operating income, or \$33.5 million, was devoted to various forms of student support, including scholarships and bursaries. *Maclean's* magazine ranks us first in the percentage of our operating expenses that is allocated towards scholarships and bursaries, and we pledge to continue this practice.

These tuition increases are part of our operating budget process. Our funding environment, both in terms of the economy and in terms of provincial politics, remains uncertain. We are waiting for funding growth commitments from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for 2011-2012. Some of our costs, such as those reflected in our salary settlements, are known, and we continue to work to find efficiencies in the system. We are also confident that in the near term, undergraduate enrolment will

continue to rise. The board will consider the university's operating budget for 2011-2012 at its April meeting.

I am pleased to report that we are moving forward with our plans for the Stratford Campus. The board awarded a design/build contract to Bondfield Construction Company Limited and ZAS Architects, who emerged as the winner in our contact competition after careful consideration. We are excited about the possibilities in Stratford and can't wait for the ground to thaw enough to start work.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Lois Claxton, outgoing Secretary of the University. Lois has been part of the uWaterloo family since her student days, and spent more than 30 years as a staff member, the last 20 as university secretary. Last year, the Lois Claxton Award in Humanities and Social Sciences Research was established to help us achieve our goals in social sciences and humanities research. Lois's leadership example is an inspiration to us all, and we wish her the very best.

Feridun Hamdullahpur  
President

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