



TUITION FEES CONTINUE TO RISE WITH NEW 2019-2024 MOU

The first 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the province and the universities was signed on Thursday, September 12, 2019.

WHAT IS THE MOU?

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is an agreement signed between the provincial government and CONSUP – the Council of Nova Scotia University President’s that dictates university funding, tuition fees, amongst other things. The MOU for 2019-2024 was signed by the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education, Labi Kousoulis and the chair of CONSUP, Bill Lahey.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR STUDENTS?

TUITION FEES

This MOU provides no relief for students. Tuition fee increases for Nova Scotian students are capped at 3%, meaning they can be raised a maximum of 3% more every year. Tuition fees are completely deregulated for out-of-province students, international students, graduate students and professional students, meaning they can be raised by any amount year over year.



FUNDING

Funding for universities remains stagnant at 1%. Because the cost of running universities goes up by more than 1% every year this is in reality a cut to universities operating budgets.

There has been some funding specifically earmarked for the Post-Secondary Innovation Team, e-mental health and sexual violence prevention.

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS MOU



Prioritizing Mi'kmaq and Indigenous peoples:

This MOU names collaboration with Mi'kmaq and Indigenous peoples as a priority, including fulfilling the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to action for post secondary education.

Consultation:

This MOU requires all universities to have a university-student consultation framework by March 31, 2020. The framework will need to include student unions as the primary representatives for the student body, a definition of consultation that is meaningful and on-going and outlines specific principles to guide the consultation process.

Student’s unions will have to work closely with universities in the next few months to ensure quality frameworks.

Infrastructure renewal:

This new section of the MOU acknowledges the issue of deferred maintenance on our campuses. It also recognized that universities must comply with the Accessibilities Act and states that the universities and the province will work together to meet the new Accessibility Standards. The MOU however provides no funding to tackle these potentially massive projects.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

This MOU states that the universities and the province have agreed upon a standardized template to be used as a way to monitor the success of universities in maintaining the agreements made in the document.

Students have no formal accountability measures if the province or the universities break the agreements in the document.



GET INVOLVED!

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