

- 10.1 Call to Order
- 10.2 Territory Acknowledgement
- 10.3 Acceptance of the Council Meeting Agenda
- 10.4 Acceptance of the Minutes: November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- 10.5 BCIT Student Fees consultation
- 10.6 Reports
- 10.7 Old Business
- 10.8 New Business
- 10.9 Open Forum
- 10.10 Reminders
  - 10.10.1 Next Council meeting: Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 5:30 pm in Council Chambers
- 10.11 Meeting Adjournment

- Céline L.

*Please refer to attached materials.*

**Executives:** Joshua Luu – VP, Student Experience  
 Charlene Steeves – Chair, School of Health Sciences  
 Simran Anand – Chair, School of Business + Media  
 Jimmy Wang – VP, External  
 Shelby Woida – VP, Equity and Sustainability  
 Matthew Puyat – Chair, Downtown Campus  
 Abdul Aziz Ansari – Chair, School of Transportation, Construction, & the Environment  
 Justin Saint – Chair, School of Computing and Academic Studies  
 Mia Bui – VP, Finance and Administration  
 Céline Loriot – President  
 Daniel Wong – Chair, Specialized Transport Campuses

**Staff:** Margarita Gaidasheva – Executive Assistant  
 Stewart McGillivray – Government Relations Strategist  
 Roland Gagel – Director of Finance, Interim Executive Director

<b>Councillors:</b>	Alexander Bridgeman	Fiona Wong	Parisa Saqib
	Andrea Martin Marcelo	Ho Yin Cheng (Pedro)	Quoc "Minh" Nguyen
	Aruzhan Basbulat	Jasmine Yang	Shanti Stein-Gagnon
	Cora-Lynn Bell	Kobie Smith	Fahad Ahmed Doza
	Daniel Mah	Will Ondrik	Monika Monika
	Xavier Delaney	Bobby Davidson	Muhannad Ahmad
	Megan Jewell	Andrew Pham	Jaspreet Bhuller

**Guests:** Lisa Collins - Associate VP, Student, BCIT  
 Sarah Dunn - Director, Institutional Research, BCIT  
 Kacem Habiballah – Associate VP, Academic, BCIT

**Regrets:** Vrishank Prabhu – Chair, School of Energy  
**Councillors:** Andrea Obnamia, Edward John Gatchalian, Elaine Huang, Jadon Matthias, Kyla Cruz, Matt kilpatrick (BMC), Owen Rains, Su Yamin Tun

### 11.1 Meeting called to Order

The President calls the meeting to order at 5:32 pm (30 voting members of the Council).

### 11.2 Territory Acknowledgement

Shelby Woida read the territory acknowledgement to begin the meeting.

### 11.3 Acceptance of the Agenda

**Motion:**

Be it resolved that the agenda be accepted as distributed.

*Moved by: Matthew Puyat*

*Seconded by: Daniel Wong*

**Unanimous**

**Carried**

#### 11.4 Acceptance of the Minutes: November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Motion:**

Be it resolved that the Council Meeting minutes from November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, be accepted as distributed.

*Moved by: Simran Anand*

*Seconded by: Matthew Puyat*

**Unanimous**

**Carried**

#### 11.5 BCIT Student Fees Consultation

Guests' introductions:

Lisa Collins, Associate VP, Students (BCIT)

Sarah Dunn, Director of institutional research and planning (BCIT)

Kacem Habiballah, Associate VP, Academic (BCIT)

(presentation slides available, will be uploaded to SA website as well)

BCIT prefers to initiate the student fee consultation process as early as possible in the institutional budget cycle which culminates in April

Lisa read the territory acknowledgement for BCIT's campuses

On overview was provided of the tuition/fees proposal process

- Fees review happens annually

Meaningful SA consultations are an important input for Institutional decision-making

Student fees are second largest component of BCIT's budget after government funding

- Approved fees take effect each year on August 1<sup>st</sup>
- Guided by the *Tuition Fee Limit Policy* which limits domestic tuition increases to the historic rate of inflation = 2%
- Applicable to all public post-secondary institutions, to make sure they're affordable

Specific to domestic students

- Excludes international differential fees
- The 2% cap and the Ministry's *Policy* also does not apply to Student Association mandatory fees, including the U-Pass BC fee and the health and dental

For any new mandatory ancillary fees charges to students, BCIT must engage with SA and the Ministry

- Government is clear and strict on what's possible
- BCIT is ordinarily not permitted to plan for deficit budget
- Need permission from government if there's a deficit
- BCIT must produce a plan to return to balanced budget

First deficit was during COVID-19

- Part-time studies (Flexible Learning) enrollment was in severe decline
- Incrementally rebuilding

Registrants are tracked yearly

- Full-time international enrollments are strong

Currently in structural deficit and expenses are rising faster than revenue

- Want to strike a balance between what are reasonable expenditures and what is required

There are ongoing commitments that BCIT has to students, staff, and government

- Cost to maintain student experience is growing; need to consider fees increase

Proposal:

2% for domestic base tuition and fees – as per the BC *Tuition Limit Policy* maximums

Need to balance rising cost with providing adequate services

6% increase for the “international differential factor” so that international education continues with a cost-recovery model – helps BCIT to remain competitive

- Full-time and flexible learning (part-time)

Hold back some funds to provide support

- Not mandated to do this, but like it in principle
- Agreed to publish forecasted international increase maximums for transparency

Up to 7% international increases annually for 2025/26, 2026/27, and 2027/28 with reference to the current 12-month average of inflation, Laura Vail (BCIT) would be able to answer any questions about student housing, but she was unable to attend the meeting this evening  
On-campus student housing is not subject to the *Residential Tenancy Act*, which has a bearing on rental fees and rent increases

“Rental Relief Program” was previously created for students facing a financial emergency, in order to assist them in the short term

Q: International hold back – what would that support?

- For now, only an idea, discussed with BCIT president, and CFO
- Good idea to pursue as part of international fee increase

International students are eligible for merit-based scholarships and awards, but not for needs-based financial support other than a *bona fide* emergency. If pursued, this “international hold back” would help to establish a needs-based program for international student support, to be built up over time

Q: Why not increase fees across the board for everyone, but by a lesser amount?

- Great question, and that is certainly one approach. We are considering the “international holdback” option because there are inequities, and not student has equal need for this type of support

Q: Since international students need to prove that they’re financially stable (before coming to Canada and starting their studies) – it would seem like this “hold-back” is not applicable, because students have to prove that they can support themselves. Some may afford the 5% increase, but not the 7% - so how does this apply?

- When international students apply for a study permit – they must prove that they have resources to support themselves and their education
- Assuming they’re going back (to their country) after studies, assuming they have the means

- Recently this became a legitimate pathway to get PR status (permanent residency in Canada), so affordability is an issue for students
- An international student can have a solid plan, but then something disruptive or unfortunate happens to them, and suddenly they have extra expenses.
- So, the “hold-back” fund would support those students (help with food/rent) for a temporary emergency-type costs for students

Q: Any parking increase happening in the new year?

- In student housing, BCIT Housing can control the parking fees for that housing
- Right now the parking cost is \$20/month, but it will go up to \$25/month
- This parking is for student housing, therefore does not apply elsewhere
- BCIT is aware that students value advance notice, so any changes and increases are sent out way in advance

Q: Is there data captured on the number of international students who apply for BCIT financial aid?

- There’s tracking, but it may not be complete
- Some students (domestic or international) may make informal inquiries but not follow through on an application
- Stats are probably underrepresented, as a result

Q: Is there data captured on the number of international students who leave BCIT for financial reasons?

- Don’t always know what motivates international student to leave studies
- No, we wouldn’t be able to gather stats on that

Q: If BCIT chooses to use some of this rate increase to support international students with financial need, what amount of aid could be offered?

- Start with 1% of revenue raised
- Don’t have a program yet to allocate it, very early on in thinking about this

Last year – extraordinary increase for international students were done manually, as each program had various increases associated with its IDF

- Get feedback from SA on the 6% increase; goes into summary for their executive team

Q: Is there a cap on the available funds for this new International Students emergency support funding? Or would the amount be based on need?

- Practically speaking – if approved – a budget is then made available for BCIT Student Financial Aid and Award: “this is your budget, capped at XYZ”
  - o In the alternative, that program could be permitted to run a negative variance (an internal deficit) funded by BCIT generally
- If there’s a lot of students with unmet needs – the Student Services team would recommend to BCIT Executives to do more

- Important to support international students needs, the larger the issue

Q: Is BCIT planning any other initiatives to help students with affordability?

- Always looking for ideas for what BCIT can do better
- Laura Vail, BCIT, would have more info on programs that support students
- Funding raised through the BCIT Foundation, including student support, from donors
- Anticipate that support for students is top of mind
- Looking for ways to provide support; fundraising as well
- Pilot program for some services: evening counselling hours and student development

Q: There's a lack of higher education price index in Canada – how costs are changing for certain “basket of goods”

- In certain cases, things cost more (like salaries) those are negotiated by the union
- As a large organization, BCIT also gets some price breaks due to its buying power
- If the BCIT budget is looking favourable – can do less than 7% increases,
- But if it's dipping and finances remain strained – would need to be closer to 6%-7%

Q: Many students seem to struggle with practicums in other cities or provinces. Have there been any talks about aid for these students? (Particularly finding housing, and paying for rent in both places)

- BCIT will follow-up on this so that they can provide the Student Association with an update and respond as necessary

Q: Can BCIT walk us through how IDF works?

- 2% increase on base component (same for domestic students)
- 6% increase on international rate, which is applied on top of the base component
- There's a tuition estimator for international students on BCIT website
- In full time programs – it's not a straightforward ratio increase
- In flexible learning – the increase is easier to understand, there is a ratio between the domestic and the international rate

Q: For domestic students – what part of increase went to the emergency funds?

- It's not quite that simple, the 2% increase goes into general revenues;
- About \$800,000 annually comes from the BCIT Operating fund into this allocation

Lisa offered to answer questions outside of this meeting. Students are welcome to contact her.

6:22 pm – BCIT team departs.

**11.6 Reports - n/a**

**11.7 Old Business - n/a**



**11.8 New Business - n/a**

**11.9 Open Forum - n/a**

**11.10 Reminders**

11.9.1 Next Council Meeting: December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 5:30 pm in Council Chambers

**11.10 Meeting Adjournment**

It was moved by Shelby Woida and seconded by Charlene Steeves that the meeting be adjourned.

**Unanimous**

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm



A photograph of four diverse students walking on a paved path outdoors. From left to right: a young woman with long dark hair wearing a black jacket and white pants; a young man with dark hair wearing a black jacket over a striped shirt; a young man with dark hair wearing a patterned shirt and a backpack; and a young woman with long dark hair wearing a dark jacket and holding a book. The background shows a metal railing, trees, and a building. A blue square logo with the white text 'BCIT' is overlaid on the image.

BCIT

# TUITION AND FEES PROPOSAL 2024/25

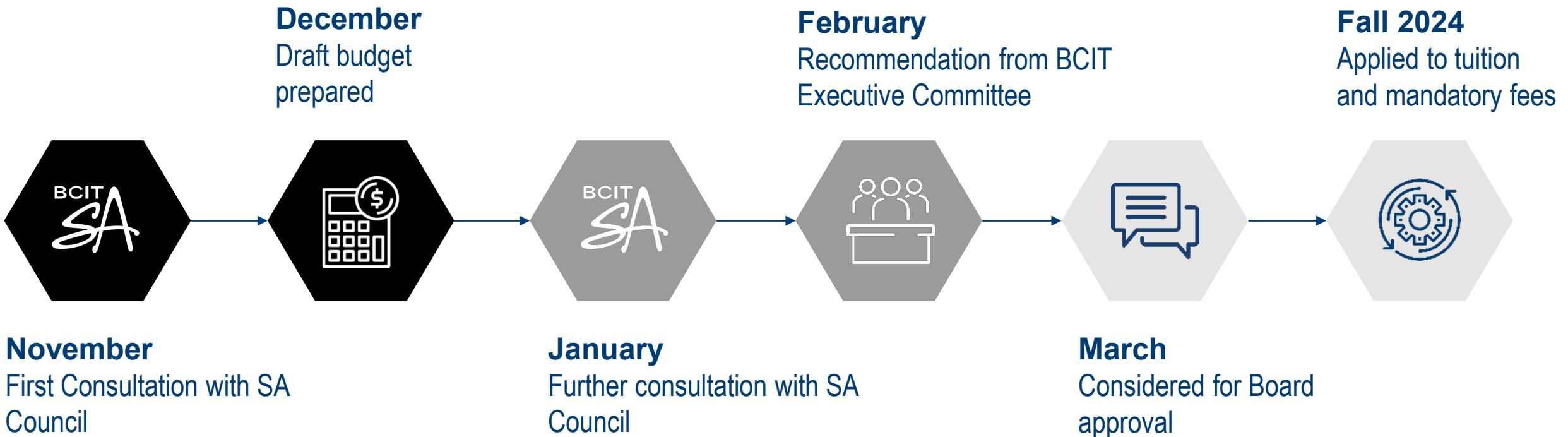
Lisa Collins, Kacem Habiballah, Sarah Dunn, Laura Vail





The British Columbia Institute of Technology acknowledges that our campuses are located on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish Nations of *Sḵwx̱wú7mesh* [Squamish], *səl̓ilwətaʔɬ* [Tsleil-Waututh], and *xwməθkwəyəm* [Musqueam].

# TUITION/FEEES PROPOSAL PROCESS





# BC PROVINCIAL TUITION LIMIT POLICY



## INCLUSIONS

- Increases to domestic tuition and mandatory fees, up to 2% per year



## EXCLUSIONS

- International differential fees
- Tuition for new programming (first year)
- SA-levied mandatory fees

## New mandatory fees may be introduced:

- For new services where there is a clear benefit to students
- After proactive consultation with students and early consultation with government



# FINANCIAL CONTEXT



Legislation requires  
balanced budgets



Third Year of  
Structural Budget  
Deficit



Expenses  
outpacing revenue



Enrolment  
rebuilding  
incrementally



Recovery  
Strategy



# ONGOING COMMITMENTS



High quality programs and instruction



Living space upgrades to Student Housing



Comprehensive supports for student learning and well-being



Technology to support learning



Positive, supportive student experience



Mandate to support workforce development in BC



# TUITION AND FEES PROPOSAL 2024/25

**01**

2% increase to domestic  
tuition and mandatory fees

**02**

6% increase to  
International Differential Fees

# 2% INCREASE TO TUITION AND FEES

## Why?

- Keep pace with rising costs

## What?

- Tuition and mandatory fees increased by 2%
- Per Tuition Limit Policy

## How?

### Includes:

- Tuition and mandatory fees

### Excludes:

- International differential
- Tuition for new programs (first year)
- SA mandatory fees

# INTERNATIONAL DIFFERENTIAL FACTOR (IDF) INCREASE

## Why?

- Keep international education cost-recovery
- Remain competitive with other PSIs

## What?

- International Differential Factor increased by 6%
- This will apply to full-time and Flexible Learning

## How?

- Includes:
  - International portion of tuition
- Excludes:
  - Base (domestic) portion
  - Mandatory fees
- **IDEA:** “Hold-back” for student financial support?



# FOR ADVANCE NOTICE



International Tuition  
Transparency



Student Housing rental  
rate increase



Student Housing parking  
fee increase



# INTERNATIONAL TUITION TRANSPARENCY



Publish four years of upcoming IDF increases to help students better plan their educational costs



- 2024/25: proposed 6% increase
- 2025/26: up to 7% increase
- 2026/27: up to 7% increase
- **2027/28: up to 7% increase**



Align with recent Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills BC International Education Framework

**STUDENT HOUSING PARKING**  
Increase from \$20 to \$25/wk

# FOR ADVANCE NOTICE

## FY2025 STUDENT HOUSING RENT INCREASE



### MONTHLY RENT INCREASE

Increase of 6% from approx \$807.40/mo to \$855.69/mo (long-term stays), and \$32.46/day to \$34.41/day (short-term stays)



### RENTAL RELIEF

Reserve 1% of rental income to provide rental relief for those who cannot afford rent

*\*\*We continue to be well below the CMHC median rental rate of \$1,339/month*



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you require clarification about the proposed increases?
- What should BCIT consider prior to making a decision about this proposal?
- What might we do to address student questions and concerns about fee increases?





THANK YOU