



**IGNITE Student Union
Board of Directors 2018-2019
Seventh Meeting
February 13, 2019
Guelph-Humber Campus**

Members Present

Shayan Shakil
Saffiya Lulat
Christian Semerjian
Tashornna Simpson
Rohit Sharma
Margarita Bader

Staff

Ercole Perrone
Monica Khosla
Vanessa Silaphet

Guests

Afifa Abbaszadeh (*Student*)
Erika Caldwell (*Student*)
Hannah Derue (*Student*)
Emily Werginz (*Avro Post/Student*)
Eli Ridder (*Avro Post/Student*)
Jason Hunter (*Vice President Student
and Community Engagement*)

Excused

Nisha Haroon
Kevin Siery

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. A quorum of Directors were present.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by: M. Bader

Seconded by: S. Lulat

CARRIED: YES

“Be it resolved that the Agenda for the Sixth Meeting of the IGNITE Board of Directors 2018-2019 is approved as amended.”

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest was declared.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING 2018-2019

Motion to approve the minutes from the Sixth Meeting of the IGNITE Board of Directors 2018-2019 on January 16, 2019 as presented.

Moved by: T. Simpson

Seconded by: C. Semerjian

CARRIED: YES

“Be it resolved that the IGNITE Board of Directors approves the minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the 2018-2019.”

5. DISCUSSION OF NEW GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVES

On January 17th, 2019, the Provincial government announced the introduction of the Student Choice Initiative. E. Perrone and J. Hunter, Vice President Student and Community Engagement, presented on repercussions of the new Student Choice Initiative for Humber and University of Guelph-Humber:

- Government’s reasons for implementation: to ensure transparency regarding fees, consistency to the way students can opt-out, ensure students have more choice regarding services and fees they wish to pay for.
- Ancillary fees are mandatory fees students pay - there are approximately 10, including IGNITE’s fee. The government has stated it will provide students the option and ability of opting out of some of these fees.
- What the Institution considers mandatory is reflective of what the government classifies as “essential”. Health and Dental plans provided by student unions will be considered mandatory; however, with proof of insurance, students may opt-out. As of next year, students will be allowed to opt-out of IGNITE’s fee.
- Government has asked and mandated that IGNITE’s singular fee will need to be broken down into sub categories/groupings that students can individually opt-out of.
- Humber and UoGH are currently trying to comply with technical requirements and infrastructure to allow this opt-out process.
- Institutions are working with their student unions to determine the opt-out process; waiting on some technical requirements and more information from the Provincial government.
- Some of IGNITE sub-groupings may be eligible to be considered essential. Ex. Health and Counselling was considered mandatory by government. There are several IGNITE initiatives and offerings that contribute to health and counselling. These in particular should be considered essential, however may not fit the definition as outlined by the government. Institutions are waiting for definition and clarity of fees considered essential by the government; this would help Institutions understand what could be deemed appropriate.
- The 10% tuition cut results in a \$12 million cut to Humber’s budget.
- OSAP reforms – financial assistance as grants are now considered loans. This seems to be more about the financial savings for the province since the government would receive more back from loans with interest than grants.
- Tuition and OSAP reforms seem to be final with very little room for change. However, impact regarding students fees seem to be in progress as more information is required - the government likely did not understand the calibre of such a reform and is still considering all aspects of the new implementation. Student invoicing will commence in the summer for Fall 2019 enrolment intake, and Institution infrastructure will need be available.
- Humber allocates funding called “tuition set aside” from funds the college collects. ‘Tuition set aside’ is used to provide bursaries, grants, scholarships, etc. to students; this allocated funding will also be reduced by 10% because of tuition being cut by 10%.

6. JOINT FEE PROTOCOL PROPOSAL

Mandatory non-tuition fees are collected based on the MTCU's Binding Policy Directive on Tuition and Ancillary Fees. This directive provides a structure for the approval and collection of ancillary (non-tuition) fees, which apply to both Humber and Guelph-Humber students.

Each year, departments responsible and accountable for the development of budgets that rely in whole or in part on the utilization of non-tuition fees meet with IGNITE leadership representatives to discuss any increases to existing fees. These discussions are a component of ongoing communication between IGNITE and Humber/Guelph-Humber related to the use of funds collected from students for the specific purposes identified.

There are 17 fees, each focusing on a different component of student service or experience, with increases typically approved for 3-5 fees annually. Over the past 10 years, fees have increased annually in the range of 2-3%. The existing process allows for accountability to the students through annual reporting of use of the fees. In general, service areas are stable and with some exceptions, experience annual cost impacts such as staffing increases and inflation of 3-4%. Fee increases are implemented on a two year lag (ex. Fee changes approved in 2018-2019 will take effect for the 2020-2021 academic year).

From a planning perspective, if fees are not increased in a particular year, this creates a need to consider service reductions in the following year, to counteract inflationary costs, and a need to "catch up" in a year when that fee is prioritized for an increase.

Given the consistent annual overall increase in the 2-3% range, the following recommendation is being presented for IGNITE's Board of Directors consideration:

- Approve an annual 2% increase to all fees each year, allowing for a more focused discussion on any specific areas requiring additional investment based on the priorities of students and the Institution. This recommendation would have a three year term limit at which point a joint review would be undertaken to determine its effectiveness.
- Controls: annual increase subject to reasonable level of reporting on ongoing activities funded by the fee.
- Fees exempt from these annual increases: IGNITE Student Development, Transcript, ID Management, Non-Academic Building Development, Athletic Building Development.

Board expressed concerns of holding Humber accountable and Humber's plans to ensure it is carrying on accordingly. Fee protocol is a plan and partnership between the Institution and IGNITE; accountability reports are provided where all fee holders submit how they are using student funds that ultimately benefit students. The accountability reports will continue and nothing within the process will change in terms of Institution staff attending board meetings and providing explanation and presentations for each fee.

Board also expressed concerns for Institution fee holders not maintaining a level of accountability and the ways in which this would affect any increase requests, ex. based on new programming, etc. J. Hunter explained that an additional or introduction of a new fee could be presented in the current process. Beyond the 2%, there may be an augmented increase at times if required, though this method would still allow for a stable and predictable funding model. Humber's contribution moving forward to some of these fees may increase, and the fee that students will be paying may augment.

Board requested more time and information to consider the presented fee protocol model and stated their uncertainty this model is necessary as some fees receive no increase at all some years.



Action item: request for CEO to present numbers and layout of previous years' fees year over year, and illustrating the impact of this 2% increase.

7. REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO FEES

E. Perrone presented a review of the proposed changes to fees:

- IGNITE's fiscal year ends March 31st; as of April 1st a "new" budget comes into effect.
- Board is being asked to approve the presented budget, knowing that it will change to a variation thereof. Approval will be based on a condition that once more information becomes available regarding the fee opt-out impact, a new proposed budget will be presented for approval. The presented budget has the best information available to date.
- If necessary, there are identified areas IGNITE is willing to cut funding from and has set priorities.
- Main priority of IGNITE is to not lose or affect student benefits or experiences. Efficiencies can be made to these offerings, but will consider cutting administrative costs before affecting any student-valued budgets.
- Examples of budget cuts may include, trainings offered to part-time staff, reducing number of conferences Executives and board members attend, less events.
- IGNITE operates on a zero-sum budget, investing all resources back to students. IGNITE will not let any budget cuts negatively affect the quality of services and offerings students receive.
- Government definition of essential versus IGNITE's definition of essential is something to consider and will be reviewed when government's definition becomes available.
- July 2019 will be the best, first idea of when IGNITE can more accurately budget.

Board members were encouraged to provide any feedback on which IGNITE offerings they consider essential and non-essential.

Motion to approve the presented budget with the condition that next year's board is presented with a newly, amended budget including any new information.

Moved by: T. Simpson
Seconded by: R. Sharma
CARRIED: YES

"Be it resolved that the IGNITE Board of Directors approve the presented budget with the condition that next year's board is presented with a newly, amended budget including any new information."

8. IN CAMERA

No in camera session required.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Seventh Meeting of the IGNITE Board of Directors 2018-2019.



Moved by: S. Lulat
Seconded by: T. Simpson
CARRIED: YES

“Be it resolved that the Seventh Meeting of the IGNITE Board of Directors 2018-2019 is adjourned.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Shayan Shakil
Chairperson

Vanessa Silaphet
Recording Secretary