

Editorial: Let’s break it down...where does your money go at UOIT?

Oshawa, ON - Since starting their term in office, the current Student Association (SA) Executive have been working tirelessly with UOIT administration to ensure that students receive a breakdown of their ancillary fees.

Currently, all students will see on the UOIT website is an “Ancillary total” of \$671.16 broken down into Ancillary \$645.16 and Copyright fee \$26. The vague explanation in note 1 on their website outlines that the ancillary fee supports student services, student life, counselling, athletics, recreation and health services. Source: <http://uoit.ca/main/current-students/money-matters/tuition-and-fees/compulsory-ancillary-fees.php>

UOIT is bound by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and University (MTCU) guidelines on ancillary fees and in that guideline MTCU mandates that universities display their fees in the most transparent way possible for their students. At a UOIT Fee Protocol Committee meeting this year, the SA referenced this guideline and the fact that we believe the university is not in compliance due to the very un-transparent manner in which our student fees are presented.

It should be noted that the SA has been demanding this breakdown every year for the last three years and has never received an answer until we contacted the Ministry to obtain more information about these guidelines.

What you see below is the breakdown that we have received and have been told it is merely a “draft version” of what students will see in April, which should be a “full breakdown.”

Illustration 1:

PROPOSED BREAKDOWN	2012-2013
Ancillary total	\$760.16
Student Life	167.26
Student Experience	151.10
Varsity	117.14
Athletics and Recreation	33.49
Health Services	59.75
Purchased Student Services	175.42
Print Credit	30
Access Copyright	26
Health/Dental	\$193.46
UHIP	\$684
Athletic Centre Levy	\$158
Upass (F/W)	\$145.50

Note 1: \$89 Varsity Fee moved into Ancillary Total
 Note 2: Student Org fee removed from this slide

As you can see, the proposed breakdown is a little better but not by much. The SA President at an UOIT Ancillary Fee Committee meeting back in November requested that this be further broken down to give examples of what types of services would be funded from broad areas such as “Student Life” versus “Student Experience.” This is what we received:

- Student Life - supports AVP office, university wide initiatives, ID, night-time safety project, and academic success center
- Student Experience - orientation, 1st year transition, peer mentoring, leadership, off campus housing, and career services
- Health Services - health promotion, counselling, and student assistance program
- Purchased Services - services purchased from Durham College such as infrastructure enhancements, student affairs office, and diversity officer

While the SA realizes this breakdown is a work in progress, we are disappointed at the level of detail considering it has been requested for over three years.

The model below is from the University of Toronto and we’ve been told by UOIT that they are eventually moving towards displaying their fees in this manner.

Illustration 2:

Illustration of layout UOIT is working on moving to

Student Life Programs and Services
2012-13
Profforma Revenue and Expenses by Area

	2012-13					2011-12	
	A Compensation	B Non salary expenses	C Departmental income	A-B-C Net Direct Costs	D Occupancy Cost	A-B-C-D Net Operating Expense	Net Operating Expense
Student Fee Funded Departments							
Division of Student Life:							
Academic Success Centre	352,770	11,950	-	364,720	29,279	393,999	386,573
Career Centre	2,089,515	177,374	105,650	2,161,339	126,443	2,287,782	2,237,676
Centre for Community Partnerships	166,068	33,500	-	199,568	34,538	234,106	212,113
First Nations' House	573,476	25,235	95,093	503,618	30,841	534,459	525,929
Health and Wellness	5,848,533	115,499	3,051,400	2,902,642	173,320	3,076,162	2,941,412
Housing Service	385,184	41,335	82,400	344,119	32,904	377,023	365,400
Centre for International Experience	712,191	122,345	45,825	788,711	106,966	895,677	869,976
Multithem Centre	284,432	41,535	13,000	312,967	95,915	408,882	319,161
Office of Student Life	2,834,664	780,150	23,600	3,591,214	120,581	3,711,795	3,238,977
VP, HR & Equity							
Early Learning Centre/Campus Co Op	-	147,900	-	147,900	60,396	208,296	199,381
Family Care Office	167,095	13,789	-	180,884	-	180,884	176,989
Sexual and Gender Diversity Office	100,276	6,000	-	106,276	-	106,276	103,115
Student Space							
APUS/OSU/UTSU					196,054	196,054	144,612
QUT					43,710	43,710	43,710
The Varsity					41,181	41,181	35,231
The Newspaper					13,996	13,996	14,410
Other St. George Campus student space					715,650	715,650	657,113
Total Student Fee Funded Departments	13,314,603	1,516,522	3,426,968	11,604,157	1,771,734	13,375,891	12,470,878
Centrally funded operations	3,960,282	842,356	2,124,265	2,678,373	68,097	2,746,469	2,479,128
Total	17,474,885	2,358,878	5,551,233	14,282,530	1,839,831	16,122,420	14,950,006
Funding							
Student Fee						12,990,934	12,102,493
Attribution of costs to UOIT						(190,051)	(190,378)
Attribution of costs to UTSO						(185,067)	(178,007)
Central Operating Budget support:						(2,746,469)	(2,479,128)
Total Funding						16,122,420	14,950,006
Operating Surplus(Deficit)						0	0



The SA will continue to advocate for better transparency and communication to UOIT students about their fees and looks forward to the final breakdown in April.

We will keep our membership updated on any new developments and hope that UOIT will provide, at minimum, the breakdown provided in Illustration 1 for the 2012-2013 year in an accurate manner on the UOIT website.