



June 19, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

As you are likely already aware, yesterday the Government of Alberta announced its financial plans until a budget is introduced in the Fall of 2015. If passed, Bill 3: Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act 2015 (No. 2) will "increase post-secondary funding by \$133 million to provide stability while working on long-term funding solutions."

A copy of the Press Release is here:

Bill 3 restores stability to Alberta's education, health care and human services, and freezes tuition | Alberta.ca
[<http://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=3820649885769-0462-4E1F-674B8225B1736627>]

Key features in yesterday's announcement include:

- reversing the 1.4% cut to the Campus Alberta grant announced in the March 2015 provincial budget;
- an increase of 2% to the Campus Alberta grant for both 2015-2016 and 2016-2017;
- restoration of funding for targeted enrolment;
- freezing domestic tuition and mandatory non-instructional fees (MNIFs) for 2 years at 2014-2015 levels; and, critically
- Market modifiers approved earlier this year will be rolled back; however, universities will receive base funding to cover the losses incurred by the roll-back.

President Samarasekera's response is here:

<http://www.ualbertablog.ca/2015/06/alberta-government-reinvests-in-campus.html>

Additional coverage in the Edmonton Journal today is here:

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/alberta-politics/announces+million+additional+dollars+health/11147491/story.html>

While I await further details and formal confirmation regarding implementation, I understand that the effect of the announcement and legislation will be to roll back the market modifier tuition increases but to provide the Faculty with the funding that would have been supported by the increases we had proposed in the formal submission last fall. The cumulative impact of the modifier alone over the three year period in the submission was to have been in the order of \$6.2M.

I will provide further updates as I have them, but this appears to be tremendous news for the Faculty and for our students. I remain extremely grateful to the LSA 2014-15 executive, and in particular LSA President Scott Meyer and Board of Governors representative Sangram Hansra, for the thoughtful and constructive manner in which law students fostered debate and provided input that both identified student priorities and continued to help make our case for investment. I also remain very grateful to the Law Alumni and Friends, the CBA-Alberta Executive, the managing partners of 12 Edmonton firms, all of you, and myriad others whose support both last fall and again this spring have been critical. I look forward to consulting with the incoming LSA President Dharram Dhillon and the 2015-16 LSA Executive, and with LFC, about how best we move forward.

As I have argued throughout, the financial security of the Faculty needs to be built on three key component parts: equitable tuition policy; government investment that recognizes the contributions of a made-in-Alberta solution to legal needs; and development support from firms, alumni and others who benefit from the Faculty's contributions and legacy. I look forward to contributing to the dialogue about long-term funding solutions as well as to continuing in earnest my efforts to secure financial support for the important mission we undertake.

Please direct any questions or media requests to me directly. Thank you all for your support and encouragement on these issues, and for all of your contributions, over what has been a remarkable first year as your Dean!

Kind regards,
Paul

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