

*Resolution for Greater Transparency and Communication Concerning Tuition  
Adjustments  
2012/2013 - 1*

March 5, 2013

*Solidly reaffirming* our commitment to serve God and people in the various marketplaces of life;

*Having considered* the report from the Office of the Registrar per the 2013/2014 academic school year tuition increase;

*Recalling* the Student Association's responsibility to advocate on behalf of the student body;

*Further recalling* the values enshrined in the Mission Statement and governing documents of the Student Association.

I move the Trinity Western University Student Association (TWUSA) adopt the following resolution: *Resolution for Greater Transparency and Communication Concerning Tuition Adjustments, 2012/2013 - 1.*

WHEREAS, Trinity Western University students pay a considerable sum of money to attend this institution, it must be recognized that continued attendance and enrollment is very sensitive to tuition adjustments. Therefore, substantial notification time is necessary to plan for such a substantial commitment. Thus far the student body has been denied timely release of information concerning tuition increases.

WHEREAS, As current students and future alumni, it must be acknowledged that the student body represents one of the largest and most important stakeholder groups within the university community. We feel strongly that given both our stakeholder status, and our financial investment in this institution, students are owed, at the very least, a succinct and concise rationale for any increases in tuition rates.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the university safeguard the interest of the student body, and, in fact, that of the university, by allowing at least one full semesters notice before any proposed tuition increases take effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the university honour the students' status as stakeholders and investors in this university by providing them with a brief rationale for tuition increases, detailing where the school intends to spend the increase, and what, if anything, has changed since the last tuition adjustment to justify further increases.

CURRENTLY, Trinity Western University has been forced to raise tuition for a number of consecutive years. While students acknowledge the economic realities of these times and, on some level, understand the necessity of tuition increases, the university has also let down its students by failing to give us adequate warning about impending increases in the tuition that we pay. While we acknowledge the efforts of

the Office of the Registrar to alert students to changes in tuition policy, the email sent on Friday, March 1, was, quite frankly, too little, too late. Students who had planned to attend Summer Sessions were given only two months to find a way to account for the additional cost. Further, students who planned on taking the summer off in order to work so they can return to a full course load in the fall semester were given only two months notice to account for the additional cost, nearly \$1,000.00, that they will have to pay over the course of the year.

Regarding the email notice sent to students by the Office of the Registrar; even as it asked us to pay \$800.00 more per full time student, the only rationale that was distributed for the increase was to “balance the A+ we receive for quality of education, while slowing tuition increases over the past 5 years”. In our opinion, this too, is insufficient. Students have long been left in the dark concerning university financial policy, and, while that is not entirely inappropriate, we contend that it is suitable, and even advisable, that students be notified as to the cause for increases in their tuition.

**RATIONALE:** As a result of the already significant cost of attending TWU, many students find themselves at the limit of either their student loans or summer earning ability. As a result of this, the stakes are high for many students and there is little margin for error when it comes to making tuition payments. When students find out about tuition increases only two months before the academic year comes to a close and they are expected to start summer jobs, these students may be denied the time necessary to make financial or employment arrangements that will allow them to return to school in the fall. If students could be informed of tuition increases at some point in the fall semester rather than the spring, they will have adequate time to make new or additional arrangements, both for summer courses, and for courses taken during the traditional academic year.

The financial commitment that students make to TWU is substantial. By virtue of both the amount of money that we spend to attend this school, and the fiduciary connection between a university and its students, the student body must be considered stakeholders in the current and future well being of this institution. As stakeholders and financial contributors, we feel that it is not unreasonable in the slightest to be informed of the rationale behind tuition increases.

As representatives of the student body, it is our responsibility to bring this Resolution forward based upon both of Edmund Burke’s traditional models of representation. As autonomous trustees of the student body, TWUSA feels that the requests for transparency enclosed herein are not unreasonable, and would, in fact, be beneficial for the students and the school as a whole. As delegates for the student body, nearly all members of TWUSA have witnessed, first hand, and through social media, the perspective of the corporate student body, and feel that we have a duty to bring this document to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

As a final note, much has been made in this Resolution of the sacrifice and commitment that students make to attend this institution. While this cannot be ignored or denied, it should also be said that students attend Trinity Western

University because we choose to. Collectively, the student body is used to making sacrifices in order to attend this university. We do so for the quality of the education we receive, for the relationships we form, and for the opportunity to learn in an environment that, itself, seeks Christ.

The Student Association acknowledges the successful efforts of university administrators to make this school one that students do choose to attend, and, in the very next breath, encourages administrators to help TWU to be as easy to attend as it reasonably can be. Extending the period of warning that students have before tuition increases take effect is a policy that will accomplish this, while exacting virtually zero financial cost on the university.

We encourage the recipients of this Resolution to accept it in the same spirit in which it was intended - one of good faith, co-operation, and of shared goals.

*Sincerely,*

The 2012/2013 Trinity Western University Student Association