

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Balanced budget offers students much-needed enhancements *Eight per cent tuition increase helps fund new scholarships and faculty positions*

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WATERLOO – Laurier's Board of Governors has just approved the University's operating budget for the next academic year. The 1999-2000 budget calls for an eight per cent tuition increase – 30 per cent of which will fund additional scholarship and bursaries – for most programs and for the hiring of 12 faculty members and support staff.

Even with the significant expenditures in areas that will clearly benefit students, the budget approved this morning is a balanced one. The expected revenues and expenses both total just under \$66-million.

"We are extremely pleased to have been able to accomplish three key goals with this budget," explained Laurier president Bob Rosehart. "First, we brought in a balanced budget. Second, we kept our promise of not increasing tuition by the 10 per cent that we're allowed. And third, we'll be providing a number of enhancements that both the administration and students recognize are necessary if we're to continue providing a quality education."

High on the list of enhancements is the addition of new faculty and staff in key areas. In the coming year, Laurier will add faculty in mathematics, physics and computing, music therapy, kinesiology and physical education, and communication studies. The University will also add support staff in its co-op office, physics and computing, kinesiology and physical education, and communication studies.

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These nine hires are being funded in part by new monies received under the provincial government's Access to Opportunities Program and the Fair Funding for Universities Grants.

Students in need will also benefit from an increase in available scholarships and bursaries. By directing 30 per cent of tuition increases into this area, the University is increasing the available total by more than \$450,000 – from \$2,702,000 to \$3,162,000.

Students will also benefit from the continued freeze in the cost of residence and food. These costs will be maintained at the 1997-98 levels.

MBA and international students form the only two groups facing increases above the eight per cent required of all other students. Fees for Laurier's one-year, full-time MBA program are increasing from \$5,346 to \$8,000. The Laurier School of Business and Economics requested the increase to fund a full-time career advisor for MBA students, two additional faculty positions and other enhancements.

Visa fees for international MBA students will increase from \$3,500 to \$4,450, while undergraduate visas will rise from \$7,000 to \$8,500, bringing Laurier's international fees in line with those at other Ontario universities.

Additional information is available from a 10-page overview of the budget. Copies are available from Laurier's Department of Public Affairs.