

**Senate Meeting of September 22, 2016
Other Business for Which Due Notice Has Been Given**

**Extending Reasonable Academic Accommodations to Students for the November 2nd, 2016
Day of Action**

that Senate declare November, 2nd 2016 a day of academic accommodation; and

that all course directors be asked through the Deans/Principal to avoid scheduling exams, tests, presentations or other work on that day; and

that Senate establish reasonable extensions of deadlines for other graded work due on November 2nd 2016 and to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who choose to attend the November 2nd Day of Action.

Submitted by Senator Malankov

Rationale

Over 10,000 York students have signed petitions calling on the elimination of tuition fees and improve access and quality of post-secondary education. On November 2nd, 2016 York Students will be taking action to call on York University and the Ontario government to freeze tuition fees.

Government funding for postsecondary education continues to decline and costs are increasingly downloaded onto students through rising tuition fees; and the increase in tuition fees are far more than the rate of inflation and faster than all other student costs, including public transit, food and rent; and

Nationally, average undergraduate tuition fees paid by full-time students this year is \$6,191 while full-time graduate students pay an average of \$6,432 and international students on the other hand continue to pay on average 3.5 times more than domestic students for the same education.

Students in Ontario pay the highest tuition fees in the country; yet face the largest class sizes, the worst student-teacher ratio, and the worst per-student funding structure in the country. Ontario students are paying more and getting less than their peers in other provinces. Nationally the average student debt has risen to \$26,819.

We strive to build a system of postsecondary education that is of high quality and accessible to all but unfortunately rising tuition fees are the biggest barrier students face to pursuing postsecondary education;

Student mobilization is an effective way to show broad support for a system of fully-funded, public postsecondary education and in light of this the York Federation of Students is organizing a day of action on November 2nd, along with other local students' unions and the Canadian Federation of Students.

In the past, Senate has support student organizing, specifically for the 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2015 days of action by providing reasonable accommodation to allow students to attend the day of action. In providing similar accommodation this year senate will once again allow the students to participate in student mobilizing.