



Athabasca University  
Students' Union

## POLICY 9.01

### POSITION

#### *Tuition and Fees: Distance Education Funding Exemption*

### POLICY RESPONSIBILITY

Council

### POLICY

WHEREAS a regulated tuition policy guarantees some degree of predictability of tuition rates for students of Athabasca University and binds Athabasca University to a degree of fiscal responsibility in terms of its financial demand on students;

WHEREAS the Alberta Ministry of Advanced Education is officially committing itself to an accessible and affordable adult learning system<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS Athabasca University is officially committed to the removal of barriers that restrict access to university level study<sup>2</sup>, and these barriers include a students' financial situation;

WHEREAS tuition for out-of-province distance education students is exempt from the Tuition Fee Regulation portion of the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA), which means Athabasca University does not receive government funding for out-of-province students.

WHEREAS approximately two thirds of Athabasca University students are out-of-province<sup>3</sup>, this creates a hardship for all Athabasca University students due to lack of funding for the University;

**AUSU's position is every distance education student taking courses at an Alberta post-secondary educational institution should be included in the Tuition Fee Regulation of the PSLA.**

### POLICY HISTORY

Original Approval Date: August 10, 2003

Last Review Date: June 9, 2017 (formal)

Review by Date: August 2018

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<sup>1</sup> About Us. (n.d.). Retrieved May 13, 2017, from <http://advancededucation.alberta.ca/ministry/about.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> Mission & Mandate. (n.d.). Retrieved May 13, 2017, from <http://www.athabascau.ca/aboutau/mission/>.

<sup>3</sup> Facts and Statistics. (n.d.). Retrieved May 13, 2017, from <http://www.athabascau.ca/aboutau/media/aufacts/>.