

-----  
To: Senate

-----  
From: Sean R. Waugh, Student Senator

-----  
Subject: Music Private Lesson Fees

-----  
Date Submitted: 2006-10-02

-----  
Senate Meeting Date: 2006-10-11

-----  
Background:

At the April 19, 2006 meeting of Senate, (former) Senator David Matthews asked a question regarding the suggested implementation of a music lesson fee, and the university's plans to accompany said fee with "adequate need-based financial aid". The response received from Dean Don McLean affirmed that "private instruction on the principal instrument is essential to a higher education in music", despite the fee being referred to as "ancillary", and that the matters of implementation and financial aid were still in discussion.

On June 5th, 2006, a memo from the Dean of the Schulich School of Music was sent to Student Accounts and Financial Services advising the implementation of an "incidental" fee for all students in the Schulich School of Music "taking private lessons on their principal instrument". This fee, currently \$333.00CAD, or \$166.50 per semester, would increase by "approximately the same amount over the next two years to a total of approximately \$1,000CAD in 2008-2009" (pending final analysis).

With this in mind I present the following questions:

-----  
Question:

1. as private lesson instruction is an "essential" part of a music degree, how can the university call the "Music Lesson Fee" an "ancillary fee" when it is clearly related to the cost of instruction, i.e. tuition?
  2. With the lesson fee's implementation and its expected yearly increase, what consultation does the University intend to seek out in order to recognize the specific financial difficulties of music students?
  3. Further to the response received at Senate on April 19, 2006, what plans has the university developed to accompany the lesson fee with need-based financial aid, and how will said aid be directed specifically towards music students who currently pay the fees?
-