



Inter Campus Shuttle Fee

Referendum Winter 2020

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The Campus Connector is a service provided by the UFV Student Union Society to shuttle students between the campuses in Chilliwack and Abbotsford, in addition to providing transportation to campus for students in Langley. The service is almost entirely funded by the Inter-Campus Shuttle fee paid for by students, and has become an invaluable service over the years. There are students who would have been unable to attend UFV without the shuttle services, and many more who depend on it to cut costs, reduce congestion, and limit the environmental impact.

The shuttle has been run at a deficit this year in order to accommodate the number of riders. With the increased usage between Langley and Abbotsford, we are spending significantly more than we are bringing in. We had to reduce the number of buses in the Winter 2020 semester, but even with this reduction, the shuttle service is projected to run more than a \$100,000 deficit this fiscal year.

We are currently in the midst of renegotiating our contract with the shuttle providers and expect costs to rise significantly: new buses will need to be purchased in the near future as the current fleet is at the end of its life. We are looking to improve the service as we are aware of the complaints students have, so we plan to avoid locking in the contract for more than a year or two. We would like to expand the service as UFV continues to grow, but those negotiations are a slow process.

In order to continue running the shuttle at current capacity, we need to index the fee by 15%. This would bring the current fee of \$27.23 to \$31.31 a semester. This allows us to cover costs, but will not allow growth or savings to expand in the future, but has the benefit of limiting the costs for students.

Alternatively, we would like to present the option of indexing the fee by a greater margin to \$35.40, a 30% increase from the current fee. This level of increase would allow us to bring the shuttle back to previous levels of service while saving a small portion to expand in the future. We are currently in contact with BC Transit to see how the service could grow over the coming years, so replacing the funds spent this past year would be valuable in pursuing that opportunity. We also recognize that while an additional \$8.17 is not significant to those who use the shuttle and depend on it, it could be frustrating for those who carry the cost for other students and do not use the service themselves.

We are holding a referendum for students to vote and decide themselves if and how the fee should change. The first question will just address whether you support indexing the shuttle fee a minimum of 15%. The second question will ask if you support an index of 30% to increase the service. If the first question passes and the second does not, the shuttle will only be indexed 15%. If the first question fails, the second will as well.

The questions are as follows:

1. Do you support an increase to the shuttle fee of 15%, bringing the fee from \$27.23 to \$31.31 per semester?
2. Do you support an additional increase of the shuttle fee of 15% (total 30%), bringing the fee from \$31.31 to \$35.40 per semester?

If the referendum does not pass, shuttle services will be reduced until we are no longer running a deficit.

