

## Some Key Points re Proposed ABPSE Funding Model

- The overarching goal, as clearly stated, is to shift the cost of higher education in Alberta away from the public (i.e. government) and towards greater private revenue generation
  1. *Report and Recommendations Blue Ribbon Panel on Alberta's Finances (August 2019)*
    1. **Recommendation 8:** *Work with post-secondary stakeholders to achieve a revenue mix comparable to that in British Columbia and Ontario, including less reliance on government grants, more funding from tuition and alternative revenue sources, and more entrepreneurial approaches to how programs are financed and delivered . This includes lifting the current freeze on tuition fees .*
    2. **Recommendation 9:** *Assess the financial viability of Alberta's post-secondary institutions . The government should move quickly to address the future of those post-secondary institutions that do not appear to be viable in future funding scenarios .*
  2. Advanced Education, PowerPoint "Performance-Based Funding Model" (24 January 2020)
    1. *Rebalanced institutional revenues with more income from tuition and self-generated sources, and reduced dependency on government grants.*
    2. *Government grant funding that is aligned to skills and labour market outcomes, institutional performance, and research and teaching.*
    3. *A more accountable, and transparent relationship between government and institutions with less red tape, that provides results for Albertans.*

*Metrics (imply decreased public funding):*

      - *Campus Alberta Grant (CAG) dependency ratio*
      - *Own source revenue*
- Performance-Based Funding Model
  1. Rush to implement – deadline currently extended to end of May, 2020, to confirm metrics for 2020-21 academic year (10% of Campus Alberta Grant)
  2. Increases red tape, despite claims of the opposite
    1. Many metrics are not currently measured
    2. Unknown how some metrics will be measured
    3. Will require personnel to collect data, interpret data, report data
  3. Implies (perhaps even explicitly states) that universities are not accountable to the public
    1. Constant evaluation for faculty (i.e. annual reports, peer review, peer evaluation, tenure and promotion processes, etc.) and the university (numerous publicly available reports – including financial – accounting for our work)
  4. Most metrics focused on skills and labour market outcomes – employment rate; employment in related job; time to find employment; graduate median income; access to career/employment services; work integrated learning (Advanced Education, PowerPoint "Performance-Based Funding Model" 24 January 2020)
    1. Universities have no control over the labour market and cannot direct activities to an ever-changing economic reality
    2. Claims universities are job-training institutions and overlooks the actual purpose of a university – to create and disseminate knowledge and

educate students to be adaptable, critical thinkers who can problem solve and communicate with others

3. Ignores economic realities – gig economy, cuts to public sector (i.e. nursing, education), high debt loads, etc.
4. Favours students from economically advantaged backgrounds and further marginalized those from traditionally excluded groups
5. Difficult to measure these outcomes – current recommendation is for self-reported data from students only recently graduated (response rate is approximately 40%)
5. While we (MRU) currently fare well in these metrics, this is:
  1. Not the point (the metrics are inherently opposed to what we do here)
  2. Not always going to be the case (especially with cuts to public sector jobs like nursing and teaching)
  3. Unclear how metrics which affect our budget will be measured and assessed
6. Effects of performance-based funding will increase over time – institutions will aim for the outcomes (the entire point of outcome-based funding) and will exclude any innovative or challenging developments

**More information:**

- <https://www.caut.ca/bulletin/2020/03/commentary-plain-truth-about-performance-based-funding>
- <https://cafa-ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CAFA's-Consultation-Submission-Outcome-Based-Funding-Model.pdf>

## **What You Can Do To Oppose the ABPSE Proposed Funding Model**

- We are all busy (serving the public interest)
- We all have important skills (from years of training)
- We can all do one or two small (or large) things to contribute

Unsure where to start? Here is a list of possible things you could do (pick ONE or more and just start):

- collect articles and research on the topics - performance-based metrics, tuition fees, private education, liberal education, etc.
- post once a day (or more if interested) on a Twitter/Facebook feed to distribute this information (hashtags #abpse #abpoli #FightTheCuts)
- create a website to house all of the information on these issues
- design posters and other visuals
- provide a creative understanding of the issues (maybe a cartoon of the factory university or something related)
- press to include the voices of traditionally marginalized students and faculty on campus

- speak out for contract faculty who may not feel able to and who will face the brunt of these changes
- connect to other movements resisting the budget cuts/direction of this government – do you know nurses, teachers, doctors, social workers, civil servants, etc?
- speak with people you see outside work
- write an op ed (Calgary Herald, Edmonton Journal, both Sun papers, Globe & Mail, National Post, etc)
- write letters to the editors (as above)
- write a column for a community newsletter
- call or write your MLA to discuss the new funding model ([https://www.assembly.ab.ca/lao/mla/mla\\_help.htm](https://www.assembly.ab.ca/lao/mla/mla_help.htm))
- be part of an MRFA video segment regarding funding PSE and faculty's importance in the education system (contact Frank Cota, Advocacy Officer)
- fill out the MRFA [online faculty profile form](#) to inform the community and support faculty
- write a letter that could be distributed to parents in the province
- visit a group or organization to talk about the value of higher education (i.e. Rotary Club, Kiwanis, Elks Club, the Legion, community associations, etc.)
- connect with students to get them mobilizing around tuition increases
- POSTPONED. attend and advertise Fight the Cuts rally on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12pm at MRU East Gate (flyer to follow)
- ANY OTHER IDEAS YOU HAVE (everyone has something they can do to contribute!!)