

AGENDA

Board of Directors Meeting # 14a
February 17, 2026 – 1:00 pm



Agenda – February 17, 2026

14a.0	Call to Order	
14a.1	Land Acknowledgement	
14a.2	Adoption of the Agenda 14a.2.1 Approve the Agenda 14a.2.2 Declarations of Conflicts	1
14a.3	Ratifications and De-Ratifications	
14a.4	Comments from the Chair 14a.4.1 Introductions and Pronouns	
14a.5	Approval of Past Minutes	
14a.6	Executive Committee Minutes	
14a.7	Executive Updates	
14a.8	Director Reports	
14a.9	CSA Service Update and Report	
14a.10	Committee Updates and Reports	
14a.11	Business 14a.11.1 Approve Press Release re. Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security's Announcement	2
14a.12	New Business	
14a.13	Announcements	
14a.14	In Camera Session	
14a.15	Adjournment	

Motion

Board of Directors Meeting # 14a
February 17, 2026



Item 14a.2.1 (a) Approve the Agenda

MOTION: to suspend the CSA Rules of Order section 7.1 for the consideration of item 14a.11.1.

Moved:

Seconded:

MOTION: that the agenda for the CSA Board of Directors Meeting # 14a on February 17, 2026, be approved as printed and distributed.

Moved:

Seconded:

Item 14a.2.1 (b) Amend the Agenda

MOTION TO AMEND:

Moved:

Seconded:

Item 14a.2.1 (c) Approve the Amended Agenda

AMENDED MOTION: that the agenda for the CSA Board of Directors Meeting # 14a on February 17, 2026, be approved as amended with:

Motion

Board of Directors Meeting # 14a
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Item 14a.11.1

Approve Press Release re. Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security's Announcement

Note: Consideration of this item requires suspension of section 7.1 of the CSA Rules of Order.

WHEREAS the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES) has announced a new funding package for post-secondary institutions, including the University of Guelph;

WHEREAS this funding package, while injecting new operating dollars into the University, also introduces a 2-per-cent annual tuition hike and significantly alters the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) by capping grants at 25 per cent and mandating at least 75 per cent be loans;

WHEREAS these policy changes will result in increased costs and a greater debt burden for University of Guelph students;

WHEREAS the CSA has a mandate to represent and amplify the voices of our membership to decision-makers, including the municipal, provincial, and federal governments; and

WHEREAS timely responses and ongoing advocacy efforts related to this announcement may be required between regularly scheduled Board meetings, and the CSA's existing statement making process limits the organization's ability to act quickly on urgent matters, regardless of the impact on our membership as a whole;

BE IT RESOLVED that the CSA Board of Directors receive the draft press release regarding the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security's Announcement as information;

FURTHER that the CSA Board of Directors approve the draft press release for immediate public release through the CSA's website and social media channels;

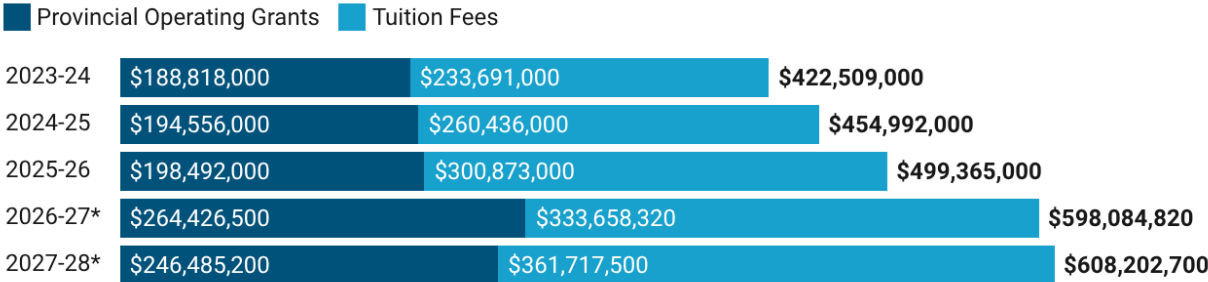
FURTHER that the Executive Committee be empowered to direct additional public actions related to this issue, including (but not limited to) events and public statements, consistent with the position of the press release and the CSA Mandate.

Moved: Nate Broughton, President

Seconded:

Post-Secondary Funding Package: New Dollars Can't Mask Rising Costs and Debt Burden for Students

GUELPH, ON — Students at the University of Guelph have spent years sounding the alarm on the funding crisis on our campus. The Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security's long-overdue injection of new operating dollars is therefore welcome. This grant is estimated to increase the University's operating budget revenues by approximately \$67.5 million next year. However, the government is attaching strings that will leave Guelph students paying more up front and repaying more for decades.



**2026-27 and 2027-28 projections are based on the current budget plan, a 30% estimated increase in operating grants from the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES), and a 2% annual tuition hike.*

Chart: Central Student Association • Source: University of Guelph • Created with Datawrapper

“Students have fought for years to reverse the chronic underfunding our campuses have experienced,” said CSA President Nate Broughton. “That stability can protect program quality and add the high-demand seats we desperately need—yet every dollar is paired with a policy that pushes the cost onto students.”

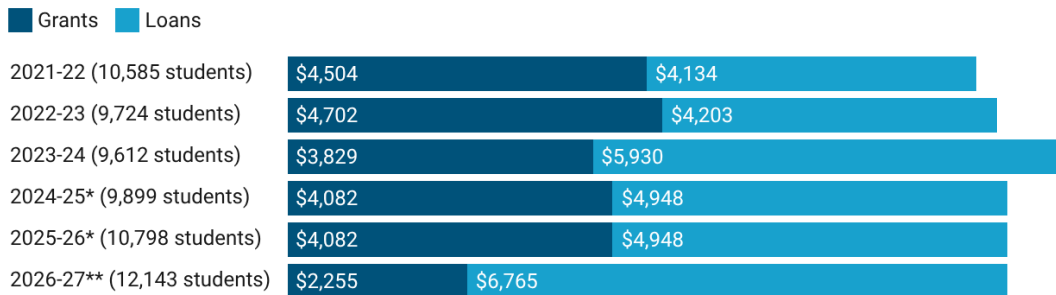
While the new money is essential, the government is coupling it with policy choices that will make education more expensive and less accessible for the very students it claims to support. A 2-per-cent annual tuition increase for the next three years will add up to \$230 to a University of Guelph student’s tuition bill in the 2026-27 academic year alone.

Starting this fall, a new OSAP model is being introduced which will gut the current system in favour of increasing student debt. The previous framework allowed

students from low- and middle-income families to receive up to 85 per cent of their assistance as non-repayable grants. The new model caps grants at 25 per cent and mandates that at least 75 per cent of every aid package be loans. For University of Guelph students relying on OSAP, this means a loss of \$23.5 million in grants and an additional \$23.4 million in loans across campus next year, and the average OSAP recipient will graduate with around \$27,060 in debt accumulated over a four-year degree. Crucially, these loans accumulate interest, meaning the dramatic shift from grants to debt will significantly extend repayment periods and force students to pay back substantially more than they borrowed.

Average Annual OSAP Funding Composition at the University of Guelph: Grants vs. Loans

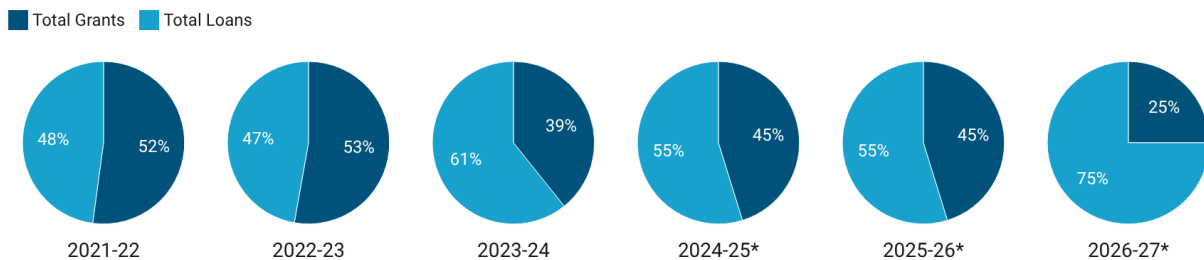
Figures represent average funding per OSAP-receiving student, in Canadian Dollars



* Projections for 2024-25 through 2026-27 incorporate University of Guelph's 5-year average OSAP funding per FTE (2019-2023) and maintain the 2023-24 percentage of OSAP recipients (38%). The grant/loan split for 2024-25 and 2025-26 uses the 5-year average (2019-2023), while 2026-27 reflects the provincial government's new 25% grant cap.

Chart: Central Student Association • Source: University of Guelph • Created with Datawrapper

Percentage of Total OSAP Dollars at the University of Guelph by Grant vs. Loan



* Projections for 2024-25 through 2026-27 are based on the 5-year average (2019-2023) of University of Guelph's OSAP grant and loan percentages. The 2026-27 projection also incorporates the provincial government's new 25% grant cap.

Chart: Central Student Association • Source: University of Guelph • Created with Datawrapper

“Investing billions on one hand while saddling students with record debt on the other is a bad deal for Ontario,” Broughton said. “Higher education is meant to open

the door to new opportunities, yet this package risks slamming it shut with years of unavoidable payments.”

Piling even more costs onto students while ending the tuition freeze is not a plan that works. Ontario already graduates students with some of the country’s largest debt burdens; higher tuition plus a minimum 75-per-cent loan requirement for OSAP will push those burdens even higher.

“Students have been clear: we need public investment, not cost shifting onto individual students and families,” Broughton concluded. “Working closely with the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario and our other partners, we will continue to engage the University of Guelph, MPPs, and the provincial government to ensure these new dollars move us closer to free and accessible education for all.”

The CSA urges all students and allies to take immediate action against these detrimental changes. Visit handsoffoureducation.ca/emailer now to send a direct message to your MPP and the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security. We are also actively collaborating with our partners at CFS–Ontario on further actions, to ensure student voices are heard loudly and clearly.

– 30 –

The Central Student Association represents over 28,000 undergraduate students at the University of Guelph. As a student-led, not-for-profit organization, the CSA advocates for student interests and provides essential services, supports, and advocacy on campus.

For further information, please contact:

Nate Broughton

CSA President

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Motion

Board of Directors Meeting # 14a

February 17, 2026



Item 14a.15 Adjournment

MOTION: That the CSA Board of Directors Meeting # 14a on February 17, 2026 be adjourned at pm.

Moved:

Seconded: