

WHEREAS in April 2015, Nova Scotia's Liberal government deregulated tuition fees for out-of-province and graduate students, while also allowing a one-time "market adjustment" for all tuition fees; and

WHEREAS all universities have made submissions to the government outlining their intentions to implement "market adjustments," such as Dalhousie's intention to do so in the programs of engineering, pharmacy and agriculture; and

WHEREAS the University of King's College has gone public with its intention to raise tuition fees by \$1000 in the Foundation Year Programme; and

WHEREAS the tuition fee increases have been condemned by King's students, faculty, and staff,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Dalhousie Student Union Council approve the following statement in solidarity with the King's Student Union:

Dalhousie students share a bond with King's students. Dalhousie and King's students often attend the same classes together, form societies with members from both universities, and socialize together. As well, Dalhousie and King's students are both negatively affected by cuts to university funding, high tuition fees and student debt. Dalhousie and King's both already pay some of the highest tuition fees in the country for arts and humanities programs. However, a misguided Liberal government and administration wants students to pay even more with so-called "market adjustments," a coded political term for massive tuition fee increases. The King's Board of Governors will soon be voting on whether or not to increase tuition fees in the Foundation Year Programme by \$1000. This is no "market adjustment," as King's already charges among the highest tuition fees in the country for comparable "great books" programs. This is a blatant cash grab, placing the responsibility for balancing the university's and provinces' finances on the backs of first-year university students.

Students at Dalhousie want to see education become more accessible, not less. Raising tuition fees by any amount makes it harder for the most marginalized students to access post-secondary education, but the situation now faced, where the tuition fee increases proposed are above \$1000, is extreme. The average student debt in Nova Scotia at \$37,000. These increases will not help our universities will not attract the best and the brightest students - only the richest. This is unacceptable.

King's is not the only school which will face substantial fee increases this year: it is simply the first. It will take hard and persistent student action to stop the \$1000 tuition hike to the Foundation Year Programme, but it can be done. King's students do not stand alone in their fight and the Dalhousie Student Union is ready to provide support however we are able. On behalf of the 18,500 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students at Dalhousie, we stand in solidarity with King's students and the King's Student Union as they do whatever it takes to stop tuition hikes at their institution and everywhere.