

February 13, 2017

Dave Wallace, Executive Director
Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC)
170 research Lane
Guelph, ON N1G 5E2

Re: Fees for OUAC Applications

This letter is in support of the correspondence received from the Peel District School Board dated December 2, 2016.

At a meeting of the Durham District School Board held on January 23, 2017, the Board expressed concern with the implementation of an additional \$50.00 fee to students who wish to make changes to their OUAC applications beginning with this year's cohort of applicants.

The Durham District School Board emphasizes the issues outlined by the Peel DSB as they relate to the financial commitment required on the part of both students and their families when applying to universities and the mental well-being among adolescents as they process the added pressure of making very important decisions about their pathways.

The added fee of \$50.00 to change choices of university is a financial burden for students and inequitable when compared to the fees charged when applying through the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS).

On behalf of the Durham District School Board, I would urge OUAC to reevaluate the imposition of a \$50.00 change fee for the 2017-2018 applicants.

I look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Michael Barrett, Chair
Durham District School Board

MB:kc

cc: Ontario School Board Chairs
OPSBA



@DurhamDSB



[https://www.facebook.com/pages/
Durham-District-School-Board/447874875238636](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Durham-District-School-Board/447874875238636)



www.youtube.com/DurhamDSB

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December 2, 2016

Dave Wallace, Executive Director
Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC)
170 Research Lane
Guelph, ON N1G 5E2

Dear Mr. Wallace,

On behalf of the Peel District School Board and our 40,000+ secondary school students, I am writing to express our concern with the implementation of an additional \$50.00 fee to students who wish to make changes to their OUAC applications beginning with this year's cohort of applicants.

In Peel, we place a great deal of emphasis on student pathways. For those students who wish to attend university, I am sure you can appreciate the financial commitment required – on the part of both students and their families. In most cases, those students applying to university are seventeen (17) years old – a time in their lives when they continue to seek guidance from family members and are influenced by both peers and social media. In short, for many students, the high school years, and particularly their final year prior to attendance at university, can be a very stressful time. An increase in mental health issues among adolescents shows strong evidence of the added pressure that our society has placed on them. As a school system, we ask them to make very important decisions about pathways and their chosen fields of study at a very young age – and very early in their final high school year. It is not unusual for a student of this age to change their minds several times before finally settling on a chosen program at university – just like it is not unusual for working adults to change professions several times during their working years.

While we are aware that students still have the ability, free of charge, to change programs within the same university, the added fee of \$50.00 to change choices of university is, in the opinion of the Board, an unfair financial burden for students who are already struggling with the pending financial commitment of tuition. Further, because a similar fee does not apply to those students changing their choice of institutions at the college level through the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS), I would suggest that students applying through OUAC are treated inequitably because of their choice of pathway.

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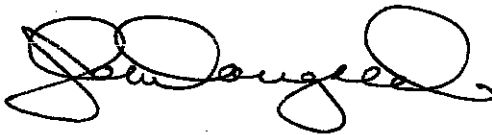
Associate Director,
Instructional Support Services
Scott Moreash

Associate Director,
Operational Support Services
Jaspal Gill

On behalf of the Peel District School Board, I would like to strongly urge OUAC to rethink the imposition of a \$50.00 "change fee" for 2017-2018 applicants. Students in the Province of Ontario are amongst the highest performing students in the world, and as a Board of Trustees, we are proud of our Peel graduates and believe they deserve every opportunity to pursue post-secondary studies without bearing the cost of added administration fees imposed by OUAC.

I look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet McDougald", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Janet McDougald
Chair

c. Ontario School Board Chairs
OPSBA