



University Students' Council

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Delegate submission to London Transit Commission Thursday, April 13, 2023

The Western University Students' Council (USC) is petitioning the London Transit Commission (LTC) to agree to a contract extension of one year with a zero percent price increase.

As inflationary pressures are no doubt a concern to the LTC, we want to emphasize that this contract does not represent an overall stagnant fee contribution from our students.

- Western has a planned increase in enrollment of at least 2% for September 2023, for both Undergraduate and Graduate students.
- We are also confident that Western will change the definition of a full-time (fee paying) student from a 3.5 credit course load to a 3.0 credit course load. While we are ourselves waiting on what that change would represent in terms of the total number of new students who would be paying the LTC fee, this will represent an additional real increase in funding.

Our rationale:

- *Perceived value students receive from the Bus Pass.* When a bus drives by because it is full, or a student is refused a ride because their card does not scan - we hear the complaints. Students will pay well for services they feel are safe, reliable and consistent (ie. Uber and Lyft). Our polls show that students do not feel that the LTC meets those goals.
- *Actual value students receive from their Bus Pass.* Based on the two reports we have received from LTC staff, half of all students are actually paying more than they would if required to purchase a standard monthly pass. During the university's remote learning period, students were contributing the same amount of funding, but very few were using the service.
- *Timely access to reports.* We have been requesting access to usage data for years, but to date have only received two months of ridership statistics (October and November of 2022). We need accurate and timely information to justify this service to our constituents.
- *Our wish to be treated as partners.* To date, the USC has not been afforded the respect due to a group that contributes \$8.7 million dollars annually to the LTC. At our end, we would commit to using our advocacy teams and alumni networks to push the municipal and provincial governments for additional funding that would directly benefit our student riders and community as a whole, and work with student riders and the LTC to identify and resolve gaps, so that value is demonstrated.

Respectfully,

Ethan Gardner (USC President)

Sunday Ajax (Incoming USC President)