



**Council of Alberta University Students**  
*Monthly Living Allowance Policy*  
Policy #02-11

WHEREAS the Moderate Standard of Living calculation grossly underestimates the actual costs of living and attending university; and

WHEREAS the current amount allocated for rent, utilities, food, personal care and miscellaneous expenditures does not meet most students' actual costs of living in a university residence or maintaining another residence in the proximity of their university.

WHEREAS the provincial government and academic institutions have the resources to collect and publish data on monthly student expenses.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Alberta University Students propose substantial increases to the monthly living allowances through the Alberta Student Loan Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of Alberta University Students seek a monthly living allowance – including utilities – that is increased to reflect the average cost of living in university residences.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of Alberta University Students recommend an increase to the monthly transportation allowance in order to reflect increasing transit and parking costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of Alberta University Students seek an increase to the monthly food allowance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of Alberta University Students seek an increase to the personal care and miscellaneous monthly allowance in order to accommodate telephone service and internet access.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of Alberta University Students seek yearly adjustments to the monthly living allowance in accordance with rising tuition and fees, rising utility costs, the needs of non-traditional students, and average rents as calculated by groups such as the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation or Statistics Canada in each educational institution's community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of Alberta University Students seek yearly consultations with the Civil Service in order to specifically discuss

changes to the monthly living allowance and the real costs of education, including any move toward changing the monthly living allowance policy in favour of a “market basket” calculation.