

The University of Western Ontario
1151 Richmond Street
London, Ontario, Canada

Submitted to Parking Services
Submitted to the Office of the President
Submitted to the Office of the Provost (Planning, Budgeting and IT)

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Please allow this document to serve as a formal letter of complaint of unfair treatment against students at the University of Western Ontario (Western University) who require access to vehicle transportation and parking on campus parking lots. Since the significant price increases in September 2017 of monthly term parking passes, there have been multiple negative impacts on students in addition to unfair treatment in refunding unwanted parking passes.

The **176.88% increase (a 2.77-fold difference)** from the original value of non-reserve monthly parking passes is concerning as it has pushed the price to a very high value in a short amount of time. This has resulted in an increase in term pass sales, has deterred students against the purchase of a monthly parking pass, and has had additional negative impacts.

This unfair treatment includes the following concerns and observations:

1. In comparing September 2016¹ to September 2017² for perimeter non-reserve parking passes, the monthly pass was increased 176.88% (from \$41.00 to \$113.52).
2. If we pro-rate the term pass to a monthly rate, the cost is \$69.76 per month, 61.45% the cost of a monthly parking pass comparing current prices of non-reserve monthly passes (\$113.52) to a term passes (\$279.02).
3. If we pro-rate the annual pass³ to a monthly rate, the cost is \$42.18 per month, 37.16% the cost of a monthly parking pass comparing current prices of non-reserve monthly passes (\$113.52) to an annual pass (\$506.16)
4. In comparing the UWO monthly parking (\$113.52) to a monthly parking pass at the University hospital⁴ (\$75.00) on campus, the cost of UWO parking passes are 151.36% the value.

¹ Value taken from: 2016 Parking Modernization – parking for the future. Page 4.

http://uwo.ca/parking/img/modernization/Parking_Modernization_ParkingForTheFuture.pdf.

² Value taken from: <https://www.uwo.ca/parking/permits/students/undergrad.html>. Accessed on February 7, 2018.

³ Value taken from: <https://www.uwo.ca/parking/permits/students/undergrad.html>. Accessed on February 7, 2018.

⁴ Value taken from: http://www.lhsc.on.ca/About_Us/LHSC/Maps_Directions/UH/parking.htm. Accessed on February 7, 2018.

5. A major initiative on campus has been to reduce motor vehicle traffic.^{5, 6} By incentivizing the term parking pass (for example, purchasing 3 months at the monthly rate is more money than the cost of the term pass), it is probable that more students will purchase the term pass, with more students likely using it to drive to campus.
6. Term and monthly parking passes were sold out in November and December of 2017.⁷
7. If you want to cancel your term pass, the time used is price-adjusted to the monthly pass rate (of \$113.52 plus an additional \$25.00 administration fee). For example, utilizing 2 months of a term pass and wanting a refund for the remaining 2 months not used will cost \$252.04.⁸
8. For numerous undergraduate and graduate students, car transportation to campus for 1-2 months a term is required for degree completion (this may be due to: participating in more environmentally friendly transportation methods during warmer weather; field work outside of London; living outside of London; not living close to a feasible city bus route; sudden changes to family, relationship or marital status mid-academic term, etc.) and a term pass is not a practical financial option.
9. By increasing the monthly parking rate as high as possible (a 2.77-fold increase), the purpose may be to stabilize and incentivize purchasing of the term parking pass, controlling price options to students and faculty. Furthermore, in comparison to the significantly lower monthly prices at University hospital (3), we are concerned there may be coordination to increase sales of both parking groups.

At the University of Western Ontario, an institution proud of its student experience and academic leadership, this price increase is most alarming. This unjustified pricing controls options to students and faculty, increases the monthly parking fee above market value, and seems to be enacted without oversight, impacting many people in a negative way. We hope that the University administration take this issue seriously and arrive at a solution that benefits both the University community and parking services equally.

Mediated by the Society of Graduate Students
University Community Centre, Rm 260
The University of Western Ontario

⁵ Western University campus master plan 2015. Pages 115-117.

⁶ Internal communication from the president outlining the proposed objectives of **Shift**.
<http://president.uwo.ca/pdf/updatearchive/02-17-16.pdf>.

⁷ As supplementary evidence, email records can be provided upon request.

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Signatures of support

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Individual impact statements:

- “They eliminated our parking passes without even notifying us or giving us a period to figure out what we were going to do with our situation. For me, [I] used to drive my kids to daycare and park [and] drive to school afterwards, currently this is not the case. Once I had to get to the daycare for an emergency and it took me 50 mins to get there because I had to bus because I cannot park on campus.”
- “As an upper year Ph.D. candidate at Western Education (Althouse) I used to pay 35 CAD before tax a month for July/August 2017 starting last Sep. 2017 monthly passes for grad students non-reserved (green) skyrocketed to 113 CAD before taxes , this is an increase of slightly over 300% when I translate it proportionately to my monthly funding payroll which is roughly 1200 a month from Sept to April for that period, parking pass consumes 12% of my monthly income now if we calculate it based on a whole 12 month (year-round period) the 113 CAD before taxes is almost 10% of my whole meagre income. When I complained to the parking office, I have been told by an employee ... at the front desk that SOGS has agreed to this parking raise, something that I doubt now when I watched the TV report. They lied to me as a grad student. I feel being looked down upon and cheated by the very own university that I should feel proud to belong too.”
- “I understand being able to park at UWO is indeed a privilege, not a student right. However, there should be more oversight on the UWO parking administration and the UWO administration as they control the ability to purchase goods and services that are required [for some] to achieve degree completion.”
- “SOGS [The Society of Graduate Students] did not agree to this price increase. We were sent a memo in July after the decision was made telling us that the way in which permits were sold would be changing, but there were no dollar values in the memo. SOGS was notified in a minimal way on this.”