



## **Ombuds Services**

Focus on fairness.

### **Carleton University Ancillary Fee Referenda – Writ of Election (2025)**

**Issued by:** Melanie Chapman, University Ombudsperson and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)

**Important note:** this question is being posed to undergraduate students in the Bachelor of Industrial Design program.

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The School of Industrial Design Computer Fee for the Bachelor of Industrial Design program was established to help collectively pay for computer resources shared by undergraduate School of Industrial Design students and includes the cost of licensing software for Solidworks and KeyShot studio; upgrades for and maintenance of computing hardware and software; the cost of some equipment and parts, such as Wacom tablets and network equipment; providing free access to the 3D printers in the Maker Space; supporting new technological initiatives and innovations within the School of Industrial Design, and other essential technological infrastructure that enhances your learning experience.

The Computer Fee was last increased to \$95 from \$70 per year in 2011 and has remained unchanged since that time. However, as technology evolves and the demand for advanced computing resources grows, the costs associated with maintaining and upgrading these resources have significantly increased and are no longer sustainable. Consequently, the School of Industrial Design needs to adjust the Computer Fee (renamed to Technology Fee) to ensure it can continue providing students with the best possible tools and facilities.

Therefore, the School of Industrial Design is seeking the following outcomes with this referendum: a \$35 increase to the existing \$95 (annual) Technology Fee for the Bachelor of Industrial Design program to support technology costs (for a total of \$130 annually), the equal splitting of the \$130 fee between fall and winter semesters, to allow for equal billing, and for the \$130 fee to be assessed for both full- and part-time students.

**Question:**

To ensure that technology resources shared by Bachelor of Industrial Design students remain available and technologically relevant, do you support a \$35 increase to the existing \$95 Technology Fee for the Bachelor of Industrial Design program (totaling \$130 annually)?

This would also entail the School of Industrial Design splitting the \$130 fee into two equal payments of \$65, to be charged in the fall and winter term, and assessing the fee for both full- and part-time students. The \$130 fee would be tied to the Consumer Price Index and effective September 2025.

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## Undergraduate Students

### YES and NO vote:

A YES vote supports the increase to the Technology Fee for the Bachelor of Industrial Design program, starting in fall of 2025, split between fall and winter terms, and assessed for both full- and part-time students.

A NO vote does not support the increase to the Technology Fee for the Bachelor of Industrial Design program, starting in fall of 2025, split between fall and winter terms, and assessed for both full- and part-time students.

### Budget:

Per the University's referendum protocol, there shall be only one YES committee and one NO committee. The CEO will grant each committee a credit allowance up to the maximum of \$400.

Each committee must prepare a final, complete, and accurate report of all expenditures made, including all receipts, and other evidence of expenditures to be submitted to the CEO before the polls close on March 12, 2025.

### Campaign Period:

The campaign period will begin on Monday, February 24, 2025 at noon (12:00pm), with the last day of campaigning ending on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 11:59pm.

### Voting Days:

Voting days will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, and Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

### Polling:

Voting will be held online. All ballots will be conducted electronically and sent to students' University-issued email account.

### Further Information:

All enquiries or concerns regarding the referendum, campaigning, polling process, and conduct should be referred to the CEO via e-mail: [melaniechapman@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:melaniechapman@cunet.carleton.ca).

Campaign rules and referendum protocol will be posted on the website (see below) prior to the commencement of the campaign period.

### Website:

Please visit the referendum website for additional information. The site will be updated with details as they become available.

<https://students.carleton.ca/referendum>