

Enrolment Related Budget Allocations (ERBA)

Background

The current mechanism by which Dalhousie University links program enrolments and class registrations to the annual budget allocations of the Faculties is called ERBA (Enrolment Related Budget Allocations). In April of each year the Office of Institutional Analysis and Research does the necessary calculations according to the formula to arrive at an ERBA increase or decrease for each faculty. The University Budget Office includes the adjustment in the annual budget allocation calculation for each Faculty. The ERBA mechanism was developed around three objectives:

- To provide Faculties with a financial incentive and to increase enrolments, and thereby their resources, in a time of government fiscal constraint, by introducing new programs (within available resources, including the added fee revenue) and by attracting and retaining more students in existing programs.
- To provide additional resources to Faculties with increased student numbers. Conversely, to reduce the resources of Faculties where enrolment have declined so that the budget of other Faculties are safeguarded from the resulting institutional revenue loss.
- To replace ad hoc mechanisms for resourcing new programs with a more predictable arrangement that could be more easily and efficiently administered.

Introduced in the 1989/90 fiscal year it was reviewed by the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) in 1994, 2001 and again in 2009. Modifications to the formula have been made after both reviews. The following is a summary of the principal features of the current formula:

Principal Features Current Formula

- ERBA calculations use a “proxy” value for tuition and average class and headcount enrolment figures. As a result it cannot be expected to distribute the exact dollar value of the change in tuition revenue to the University that results from enrolment changes.
- A Faculty’s ERBA adjustment for a given fiscal year is based on changes in its “**enrolment units**” in the preceding academic year. For instance, 2013-14 ERBA adjustments were based on enrolment and class registrations changes from 2011-12 to 2012-13.
- The annual budget adjustments are permanent changes to the budget envelope of the Faculties. They are calculated by multiplying the change in **enrolment units** (positive or negative) by the Faculty **ERBA value**.
 - The **ERBA value** is intended to be a proxy for tuition of a full-time student. The ERBA value for each Faculty is based on tuition fees for the various programs offered by the Faculty. The ERBA values have been adjusted annually by the fee increased approved by the Board of Governors. These values were reviewed compared to actual tuition fees as part of the 2002 and 2009 ERBA reviews.

- Faculties receive 60% of the ERBA value (ie. approximately 60% of tuition). The 60% is intended to reflect the portion of the total University budget that is allocated to Faculties.

- **Enrolment units** are the sum of:
 - (i) full time equivalent (FTE) enrolments in graduate programs offered by the Faculty,
 - (ii) 25% of FTE undergraduate enrolments in the Faculty, and
 - (iii) 75% of the FTE of undergraduate class registrations taught within the Faculty.

(note that the percentages in (ii) and (iii) were changed from 50%/50% in 2010-11 based on the most recent ERBA review)

Enrolment unit calculations are based on enrolment data at August 1, December 1 and March 1.

- ERBA is calculated at the Faculty level. ERBA allocations are not disaggregated to the level of schools and departments.

- For undergraduate classes cross-listed across Faculties, the Faculty which pays the instructor is credited with the undergraduate class registrations.

- Enrolment in College of Continuing Education, the DDS program in the Faculty of Dentistry, the MD and residency programs in the Faculty of Medicine, certain distance education classes, and all premium fee programs (e.g. the MBA, Financial Services) are not included in ERBA.