

FAQ







Preamble

The *Professional Governance Act (PGA)* allows for governing councils to raise fees without referendum. As the Act has not yet been enabled, the government introduced and passed a [miscellaneous bill \(Bill 35\)](#) in the fall 2019 sitting of the legislature. The subsequent [Regulation](#) to enable the College Council to approve dues increases was approved by Cabinet on December 2, 2019.

The amended Professional Governance General Regulation specifically allows for the College of Applied Biology to increase annual fees up to 25 per cent by the first year – and seven per cent in a subsequent year – to gain the resources to execute its statutory mandate of protecting the public interest.

The College has also revised its fee for listing an employment posting on the College’s website.

The College and Its Operations

-  *When was the last time the College raised fees?*
The College raised registrant dues for the 2020 dues season for the Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio), Registered Biology Technologist (RBTech) and Applied Biology Technician (ABT) designations, however on that occasion dues for in-training designations were not adjusted.
-  *Are registrant dues for RPBios, RBTechs and ABTs increasing again in 2021?*
No, registrant dues for full, practicing designations have not been changed for 2021.
-  *Why are you raising in-training dues now?*
Dues for in-training – Biologist-in-Training, RBTech (Trainee) and ABT (Trainee) – designations have not changed since 2009. The College’s Council made the decision to adopt changes to the in-training dues in part due to the long period of time since they had been changed, and in part to keep them aligned with the increases to other designations in as of the 2020 dues season. In-training dues will increase by 25 percent, the same amount as full, active designations.
-  *When will these changes take effect?*
The new dues amount will be collected as part of the 2021 dues collection season.
-  *Isn’t a membership vote required to increase fees?*
The legislation passed by government during the fall 2019 session as Bill 35 and enacted under the Professional Governance General Regulation grants the College Council the authority to increase member dues by up to 25 per cent in order to ensure the College has the resources necessary to come into compliance with the *Professional Governance Act*.
-  *How will the College use the additional funds?*
All revenue is used in delivering on the College’s statutory mandate. The graph below depicts the allocation as per the 2019 audited financial statement.



COLLEGE OF APPLIED BIOLOGY
BUDGET 2019 - EXPENSES ALLOCATION TO

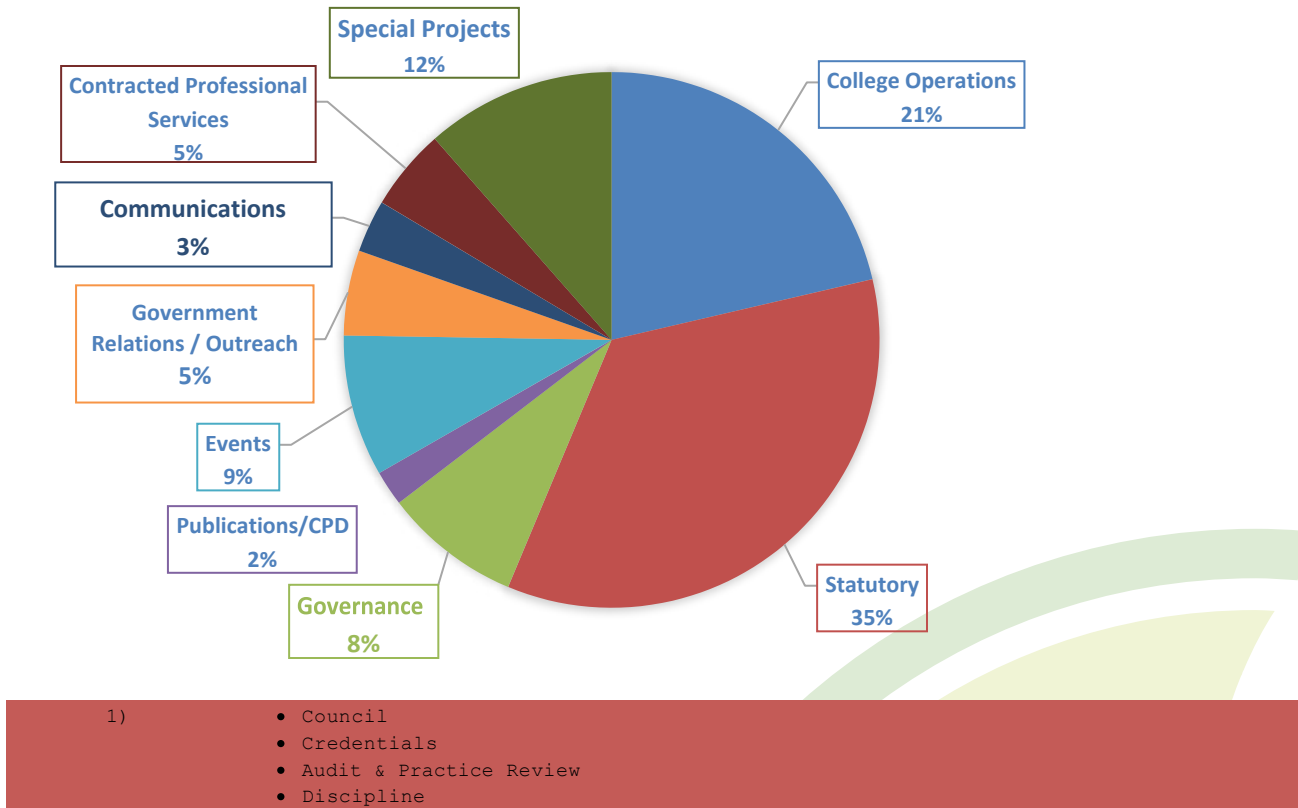


Figure 1 – College of Applied Biology 2019 budget, from Business plan 2019; 2020 budget is atypical due to effects of coronavirus pandemic

Can I defer payment for a few months?

Members are obligated to pay their dues by the dues deadline in order to avoid losing their status in good-standing and to avoid risk of removal from the register. The College begins taking dues payment in October and payments made after December 31 are considered late; the College does not have a mechanism to allow for payment plans.

While a member can choose to “defer” payment until later, what they would be doing is choosing to pay their dues late, and they would then be subject to a late fee and to the risks mentioned above.

What happens if I do not pay?

Failure to pay the annual dues after receiving written notice of impending suspension will result in a member being suspended from the register and losing their right to use their professional title as provided by Rule 10.8 in the *College Rules*. Reinstatement to the College would be subject to payment of outstanding fees (including a late fee and administration fee) and any other measures set out by Council via the Registrar’s office as per Rule 10.11 in the *Rules*.

The Dues Increase

What’s your authority to do this?



The government introduced and passed a [miscellaneous bill \(Bill 35\)](#) in the fall 2019 sitting of the legislature. The subsequent [Regulation](#) to enable the College Council to approve dues increases was approved on December 2, 2019.


The amended Professional Governance General Regulation specifically allows for the College of Applied Biology to increase annual fees up to 25 per cent by the first year – and seven per cent in a subsequent year – to gain the resources to execute its statutory mandate of protecting the public interest.

 *Why couldn't fees increase incrementally over time?*

Incremental increases may be considered in future instances, but in this case, College Council wanted the increase to align with the change in dues for the RPBio, RBTech and ABT designations from the 2020 dues collection season.

 *I am retired from the College, are my dues going up?*


No, the College's governing Council is not bringing forward changes to retired designations.

 *If I am on leave, do I have to pay more?*

No, the dues increase only applies to active, in-training members. Nevertheless, an on-leave member will have to pay the current dues upon reinstatement – whenever that reinstatement occurs – along with any other fees owing.

 *Why is the dues increase applied at different values for different categories of membership?*

The fee was applied as a percentage of the annual dues rather than a flat rate across all membership categories.

 *How did you determine the amount of the dues increase?*

The dues increase has been approved to match the amounts adjusted by the College's Council for the 2020 dues collection. This ensures that dues for full, active members and in-training members are aligned. As well the Regulation restricts increases to 25 per cent for each category.

 *Will the College be raising dues in the future?*

The College Council will always have to review the annual budget and the possibility of increasing dues in the context of fulfilling its mandate.


The PGA grants to the College Council the authority to raise dues without referendum – other organizations like the ABCFP and EGBC already have this authority. Any increases can only be to a maximum of seven percent year-over-year.

Even with the authority to raise dues, the College will continue to demonstrate prudent fiscal management with oversight from the OSPG and independent financial auditors.


Employment Postings fee

 *Why is the College increasing its fee for employment postings?*

As part of its review of dues and fees (including in-training dues), the College concluded that the fee for employment postings was past-due for revision. The fee has not been changed since at least 2017.

 *Are employment postings a significant source of revenue?*

Fees from employment postings are not a significant source of revenue, but the increase in fees are projected nevertheless to result in about \$3,000 of added revenue for the 2021 fiscal year.

 *How did you determine the amount of the increase?*

Employment postings are not subject to the PGA, but a 25 percent increase was selected to align with other recent increases in fees and determined to be reasonable given the current market.