

For immediate release

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**Outcome Based Funding Model will not achieve what the UCP wants**

The Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA)—which represents the academic staff associations at the University of Alberta, Athabasca University, University of Lethbridge, MacEwan University and Mount Royal University— is concerned with today’s announcement that the government will be implementing incremental performance-based funding over the upcoming academic years. Accountability and effective utilization of taxpayer dollars are appropriate; however, research demonstrates that performance funding does not influence the ultimate outcomes that governments want to achieve. Between 1997-98, the Government of Alberta piloted a performance indicator project at public universities: it was a funding envelope that was supposed to reward excellence and accountability in the PSE sector. This pilot program did not produce the meaningful improvements it promised and was quietly not renewed.

CAFA members are committed to ensuring an ongoing effective post-secondary landscape in Alberta and this will require full involvement of all post-secondary education stakeholders. Minister Nicolaides has repeatedly stated that faculty will be involved in consultations regarding how performance metrics will be implemented and CAFA members look forward to the opportunity to do so in a meaningful manner.

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Academic Literature on Performance Funding:

Dougherty, K. J., & Reddy, V. (2013). Performance funding for higher education: What are the mechanisms? What are the impacts? Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Horn, A.S. & Lee, Giljae. (2019). “Evaluating the Accuracy of Productivity Indicators in Performance Funding Models.” Educational Policy. Volume 33. Issue 5. P. 702–733.

Barnetson, B. & Boberg, A. (2000). “System-wide program assessment with performance indicators: Alberta’s performance funding mechanism.” The Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation. Special edition. Page 3–23