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The Athabasca University Faculty Association wishes to express its deep concern with and opposition to the proposed performance metrics based funding model for Alberta universities.

While AUFA affirms that accountability and transparency are integral to scholarly activity and teaching in a publicly funded university, the proposed funding model as presented by the government is the wrong approach.

In particular, AUFA is concerned that the proposed funding model based on performance metrics, which are not clearly defined nor meaningfully measured and correlated to post-secondary educational objectives, will present universities with unstable and unpredictable funding. Furthermore, the model is tying funding to performance outcomes that are largely outside of universities' control.

In addition to the metrics being poorly defined and largely irrelevant to scholarly activity, the proposed metrics will result in an increase in so-called bureaucratic 'red tape', as universities will be forced to divert scarce funds to efforts to gather, compile and interpret data.

AUFA urges the Ministry of Advanced Education to reconsider the implementation of a funding model that has largely been abandoned in numerous other jurisdictions.

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