

Financial Report of Ontario Universities 2014-15 Highlights

Council of Ontario Finance Officers

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Total Revenue by Source (all funds)	2
Total Revenue by Fund.....	3
Operating Revenue.....	4
Expenses by Functional Areas – Operating Fund	5
Operating Fund Expenses by Object of Expense	6
Sponsored Research Revenue	7
Enrolment	8

Introduction

The *COFO Financial Report of Ontario Universities* (the report) is prepared under the auspices of the Council of Ontario Finance Officers (COFO). The tables included in the report have been compiled from submissions prepared by each of the publicly assisted universities and their federated and affiliated institutions. These submissions follow the COFO Reporting Guidelines (the guidelines) that attempt to present financial information in the most comparative and consistent manner. The financial information is prepared by major fund groups: operating, ancillary, sponsored research, trust, capital and endowment.

It is recommended that the report be reviewed in conjunction with the guidelines, including caveats and this highlights document. Both the report and the guidelines can be downloaded from the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) website at <http://cou.on.ca/numbers/cofo/financial-reports-highlights/>.

The information presented here is at the system level (it covers all universities and their federated and affiliated institutions), and presents comparative high-level data in the following key areas by fund and by object: revenue sources, expenditure patterns, sponsored research revenue and enrolment. Comparative data covers the last two or five years, depending on the graph. The commentary is intended to add context to the data.

Note: The term “fund” in this document does not mean a particular type of revenue. Instead, it refers to a grouping of activities, as referred to in Fund Accounting. For a list of funds, please see page 3.

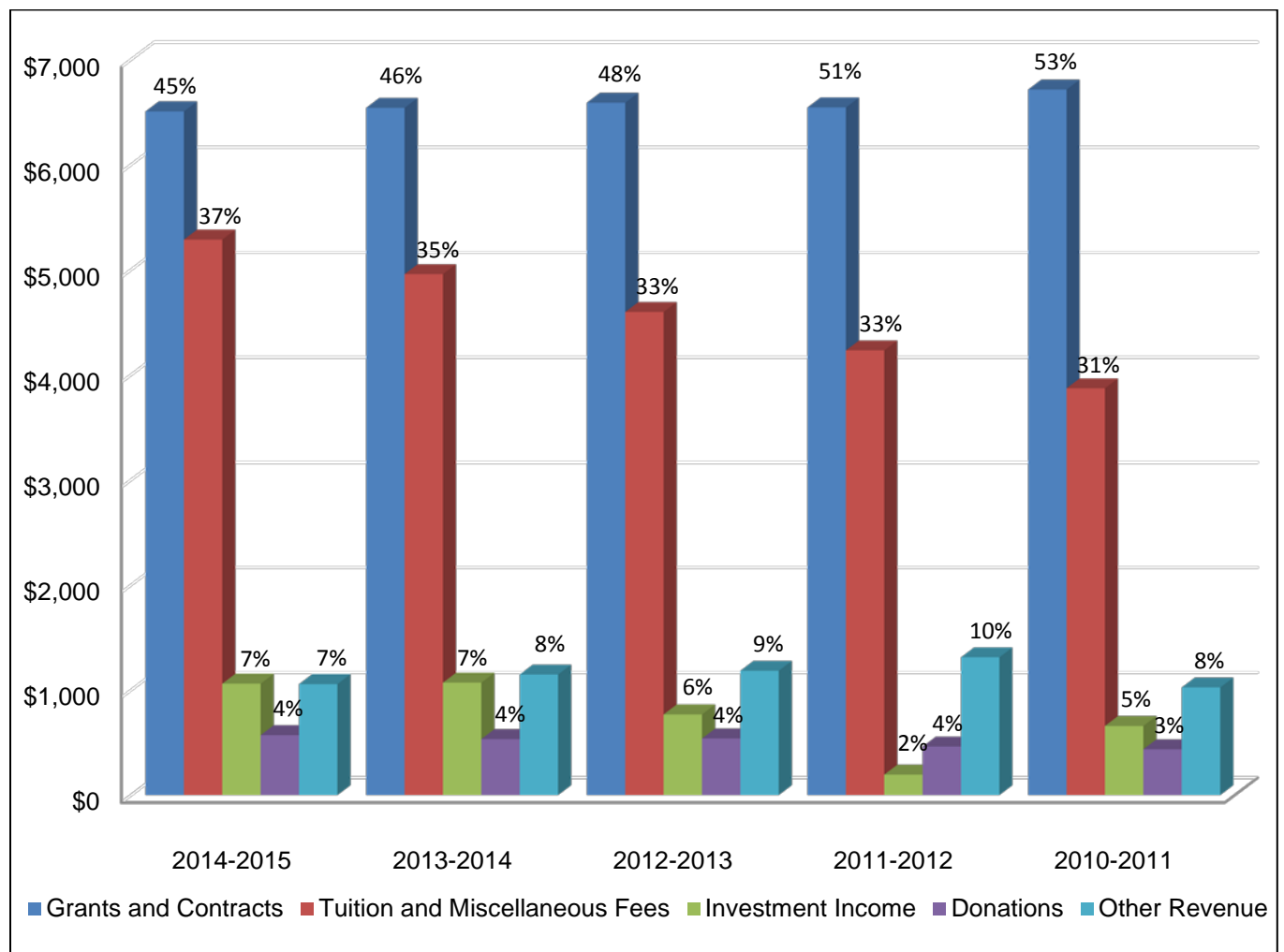
Total Revenue by Source (all funds)

Chart 1 presents total revenue by source in actual dollars, and as a percentage of total revenue. The largest sources of revenue over five years (2010-2011 to 2014-2015) were Grants and Contracts, and Tuition and Miscellaneous Fees, which together account for 82 per cent of the total revenue in 2014-2015.

Grants and Contracts, which account for 45 per cent or more of the total revenue from 2010-2011 to 2014-2015, consist primarily of operating grants from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and from federal, provincial and other research grants, as well as various research contracts.

Investment Income, in actual dollars and as a percentage of total revenue remained unchanged at 7 per cent for 2014-15, relative to the prior years. Donations from individuals, corporations and foundations remained relatively constant at 3 per cent to 4 per cent of the total revenue over the five years. Other Revenue, which includes primarily external sales of goods and services and application fees, was 7 percent of total revenue in 2014-15, from a high of 10 per cent in 2011-12.

CHART 1: Total Revenue by Source (all funds) – (\$ millions)

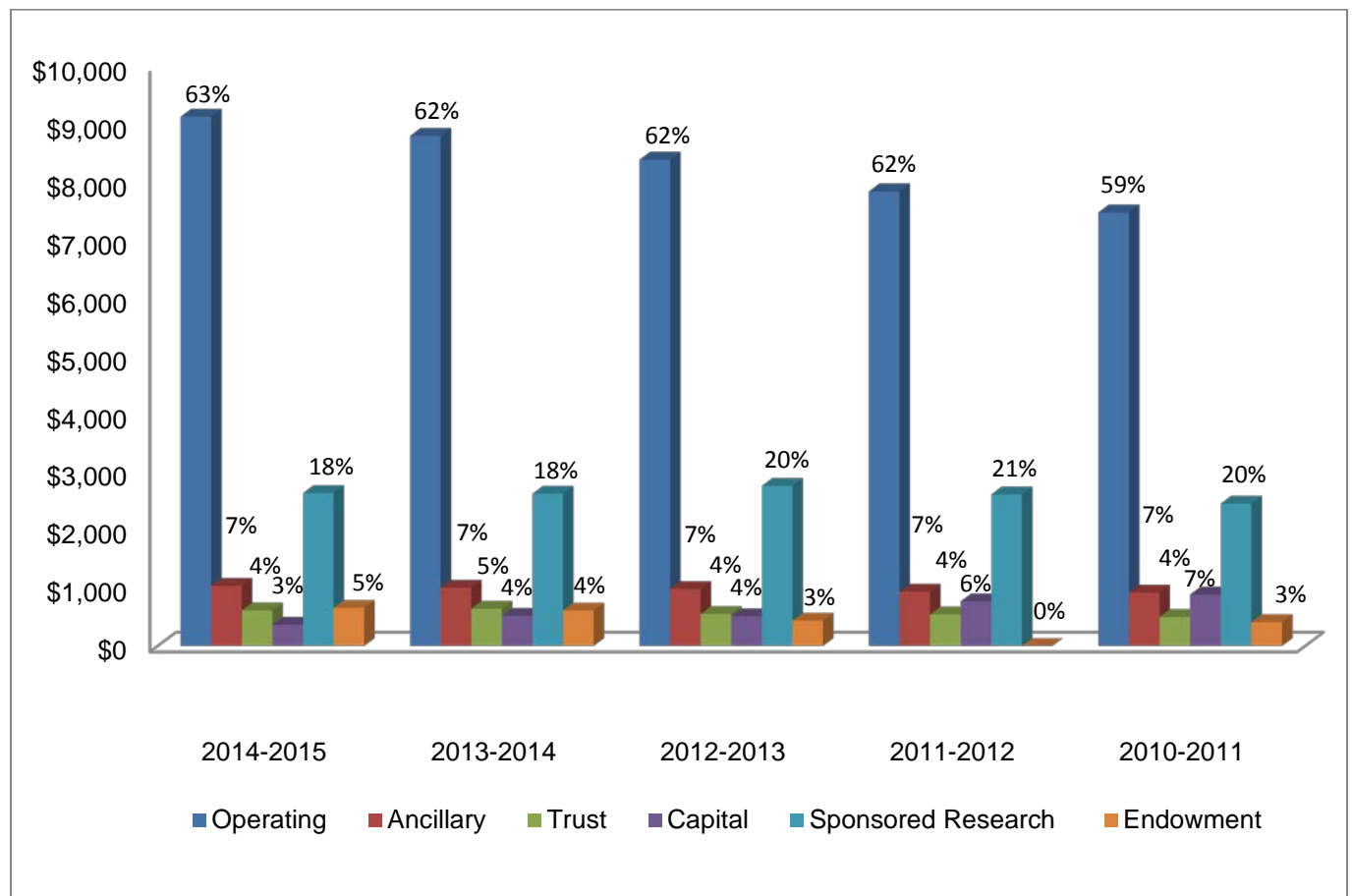


Total Revenue by Fund

Chart 2 shows both the revenue received by fund and its percentage of the total revenue over five years (2010-2011 to 2014-2015). The chart reflects different types of funds:

- **The Operating Fund** includes student tuition fees, operating grants and other general unrestricted revenue.
- **The Ancillary Fund** accounts for revenues generated by operations such as bookstores, food services, residences and parking.
- **The Trust Fund** accounts for expendable designated gifts, benefactions, grants and interest earned on non-expendable gifts, which must be spent in accordance with specific instructions by the donors or by internal restriction by the university's governing body.
- **The Capital Fund** includes grants, donations and other funds made available to the university by external funding sources (such as government and donors), specifically for capital purposes. The higher amount of funding in 2010-2011 was primarily due to the Knowledge Infrastructure Program.
- **The Sponsored Research Fund** includes government, private industry and donor funding provided specifically for sponsored research.
- **The Endowment Fund** accounts for the capitalization of externally or internally restricted gifts which cannot be spent.

CHART 2: Total Revenue by Fund – (\$ millions)



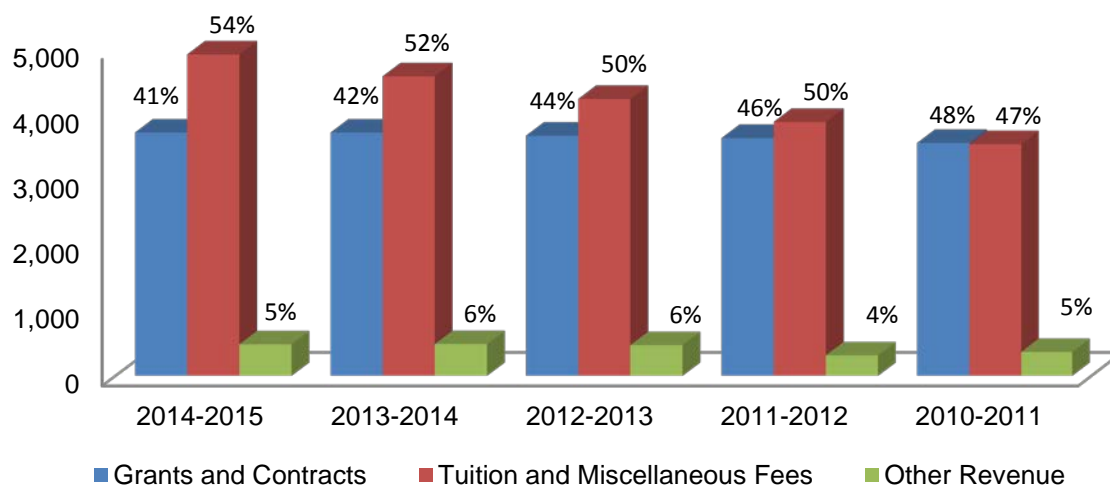
Operating Revenue

Chart 3 presents the major sources of revenue accounted for in the Operating Fund in actual dollars and as a percentage of the total revenue over five years (2010-2011 to 2014-2015). The two largest sources, accounting for more than 90 per cent of the total, are operating grants from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and tuition fee revenue. Operating grants increased in dollar terms over the five-year period, primarily because operating grants are determined on the basis of enrolment. Despite continued annual significant increases in enrolment (both undergraduate and graduate), the annual increase in operating grants is not keeping pace.

Tuition fees for domestic students attending Ontario publicly assisted universities are regulated by MTCU's tuition framework. Under this framework, tuition fees are permitted to increase by an overall average of 3 per cent per year for 2013-2014 to 2016-2017, with variations in allowable increases for different types of programs and for students in different years of their programs.¹ Tuition fee revenue increased in dollar terms and as a percentage of the total revenue over the five years, mainly as a result of enrolment growth and related fee increases during that period. On a relative basis universities are relying more and more over time on tuition revenue versus government grants. Other revenue represented 5 per cent or less of the total revenue, and included investment income and other miscellaneous items, such as application fees. The composition of the Operating Fund between grants, fees and other revenue sources remained similar over the five years.

Ontario universities continue to rank among the lowest relative to their Canadian peers when comparing operating income per student (from both tuition and operating grants) to universities in other Canadian provinces.²

CHART 3: Operating Revenue by Source – (\$ millions)



¹ Ontario's tuition framework from 2013-14 to 2016-17 allowed tuition rate increases of 3% for students in most undergraduate programs, 5% increases for entering students in professional and graduate programs, and 4% increases for professional and graduate students who started their studies under the previous framework until their graduation. The average of these rate increases, weighted by enrolment in programs, cannot exceed 3%.

² The detailed analysis may be found in COU's [Interprovincial Comparison of University Revenue: Summary Presentation. A report](#) of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario also notes that Ontario universities receive the lowest provincial funding per student.

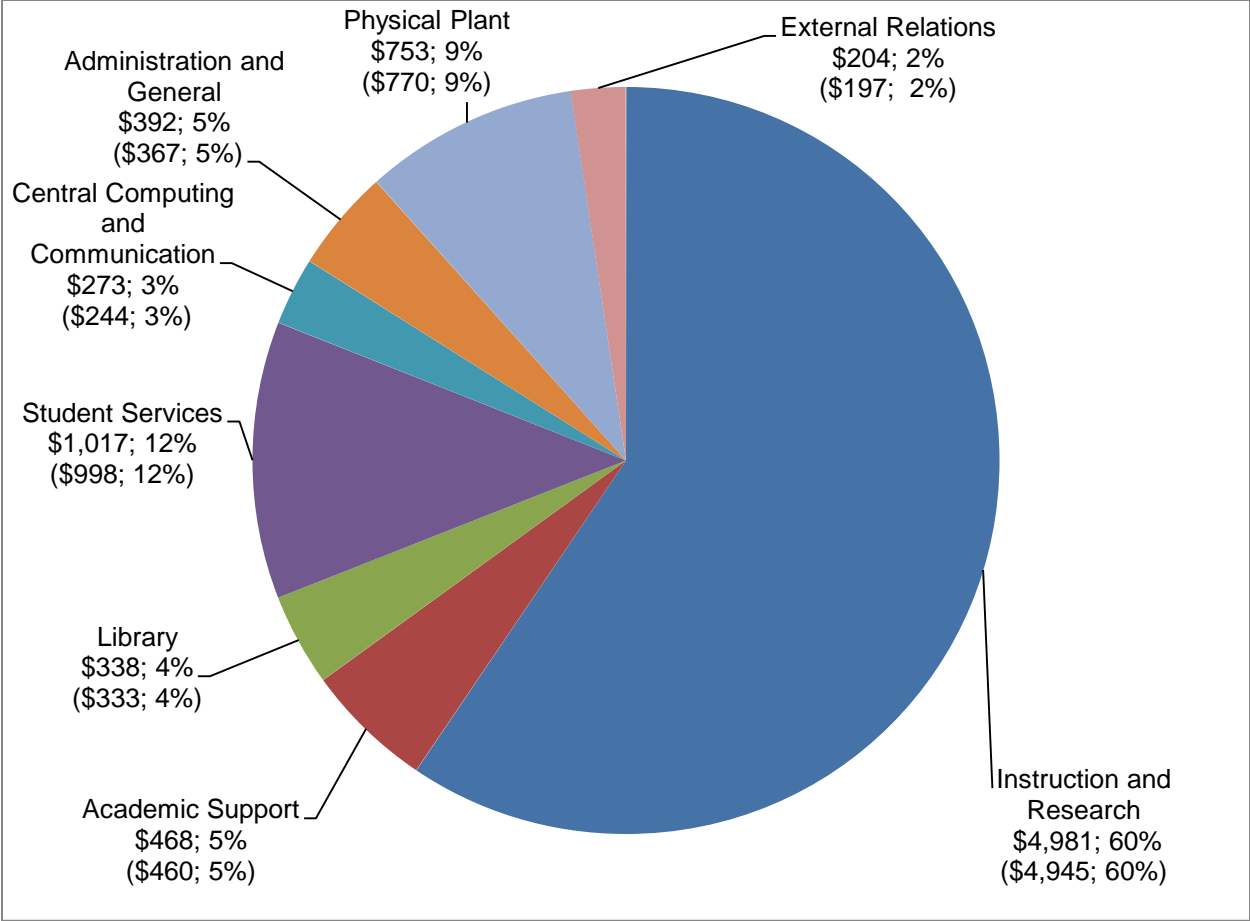
Expenses by Functional Areas – Operating Fund

Chart 4 presents expenses by major functional areas reported in the Operating Fund. The information is presented in both dollars and percentages for a two-year period (2013-2014 and 2014-2015). In 2014-2015, 60 per cent of expenses in the Operating Fund were incurred on Instruction and Research. The majority of these funds were allocated directly to the academic units for the pursuit of teaching and research. All other functional areas supported the infrastructure necessary to advance the academic mission of Ontario universities. The amount of spending in the Physical Plant area demonstrates the significant investment required to support and maintain campus buildings, grounds and utilities. However, provincial funding did not meet generally recognized benchmarks for investments in capital maintenance. As outlined in the [Ontario Universities' Facilities Condition and Assessment Program as of May 2014](#), the generally accepted minimum industry standard of re-investment in building renewal is 1.5% of the Current Replacement Value (CRV). By comparison, the funding level under the provincial government's Facilities Renewal Program since 2010-11 has been \$17.3 million annually, which represents 0.10% of the CRV. The major components of expenditures incurred in Student Services were scholarships and bursaries. For a more detailed explanation of each functional area, please refer to the COFO Reporting Guidelines at <http://cou.on.ca/numbers/cofo/financial-reports-highlights/>.

CHART 4: Operating Fund Expenses by Functional Area* – (\$ millions)

(*figures in brackets pertain to 2013-2014)

Total for 2014-2015: \$8,426 (Total for 2013-2014: \$8,314)



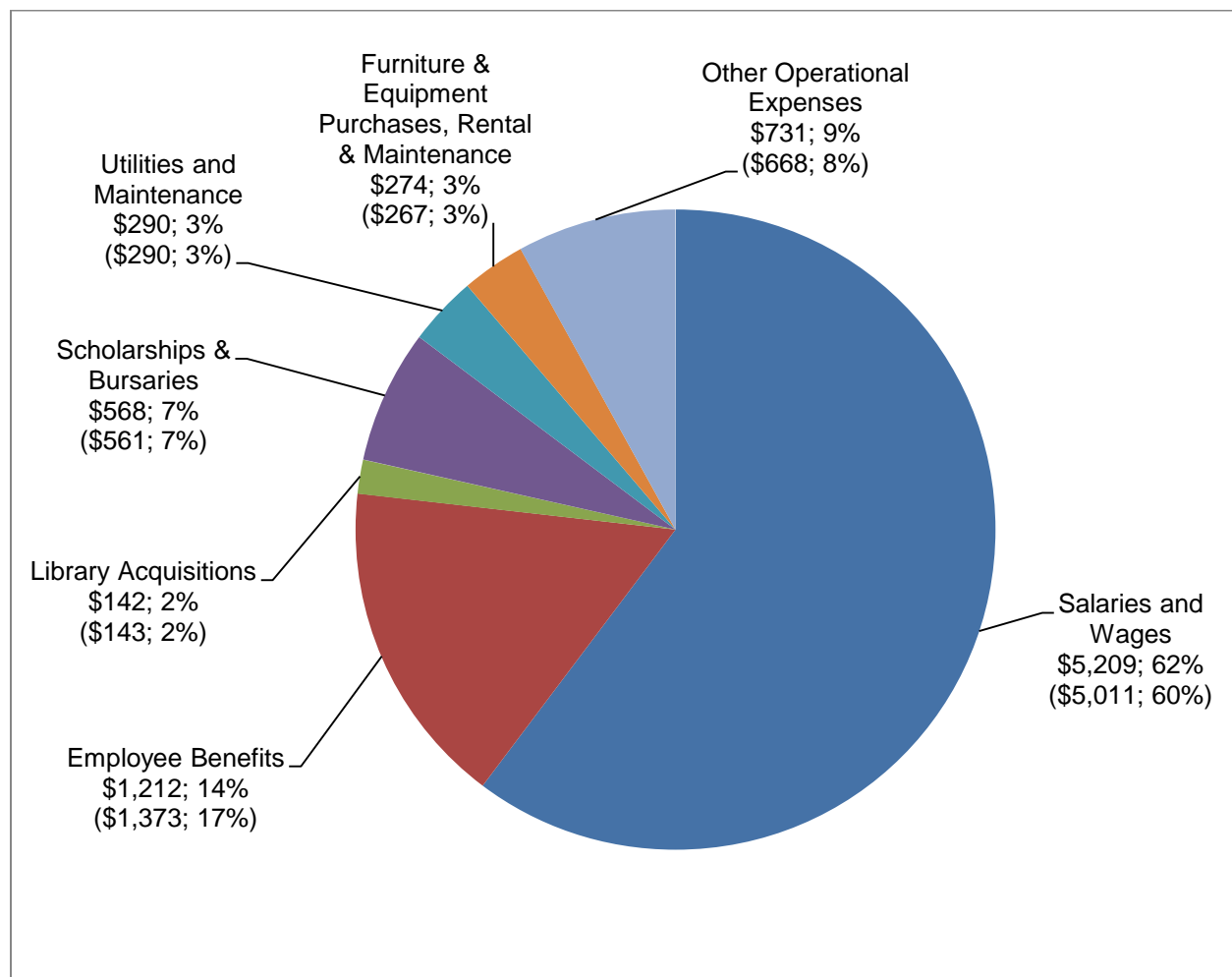
Operating Fund Expenses by Object of Expense

Chart 5 presents expenses by objects of expenses reported in the Operating Fund. The data is presented in both dollars and percentages for a two-year period (2013-2014 and 2014-2015). In 2014-2015, 76 per cent of total operating fund expenses covered faculty and staff salaries (Salaries and Wages) and benefits (Employee Benefits). This proportion of expenses on salaries and wages, and benefits, reflects the knowledge-based nature of universities. The amount of operating dollars expended in each category remained relatively constant from year to year. For details on specific expenses included in each object area presented here, please refer to the COFO Reporting Guidelines at <http://cou.on.ca/numbers/cofo/financial-reports-highlights/>.

CHART 5: Operating Fund Expenses by Object of Expense* – (\$ millions)

(*figures in brackets pertain to 2013-2014)

Total for 2014-2015: \$8,426 (Total for 2013-2014: \$8,314)

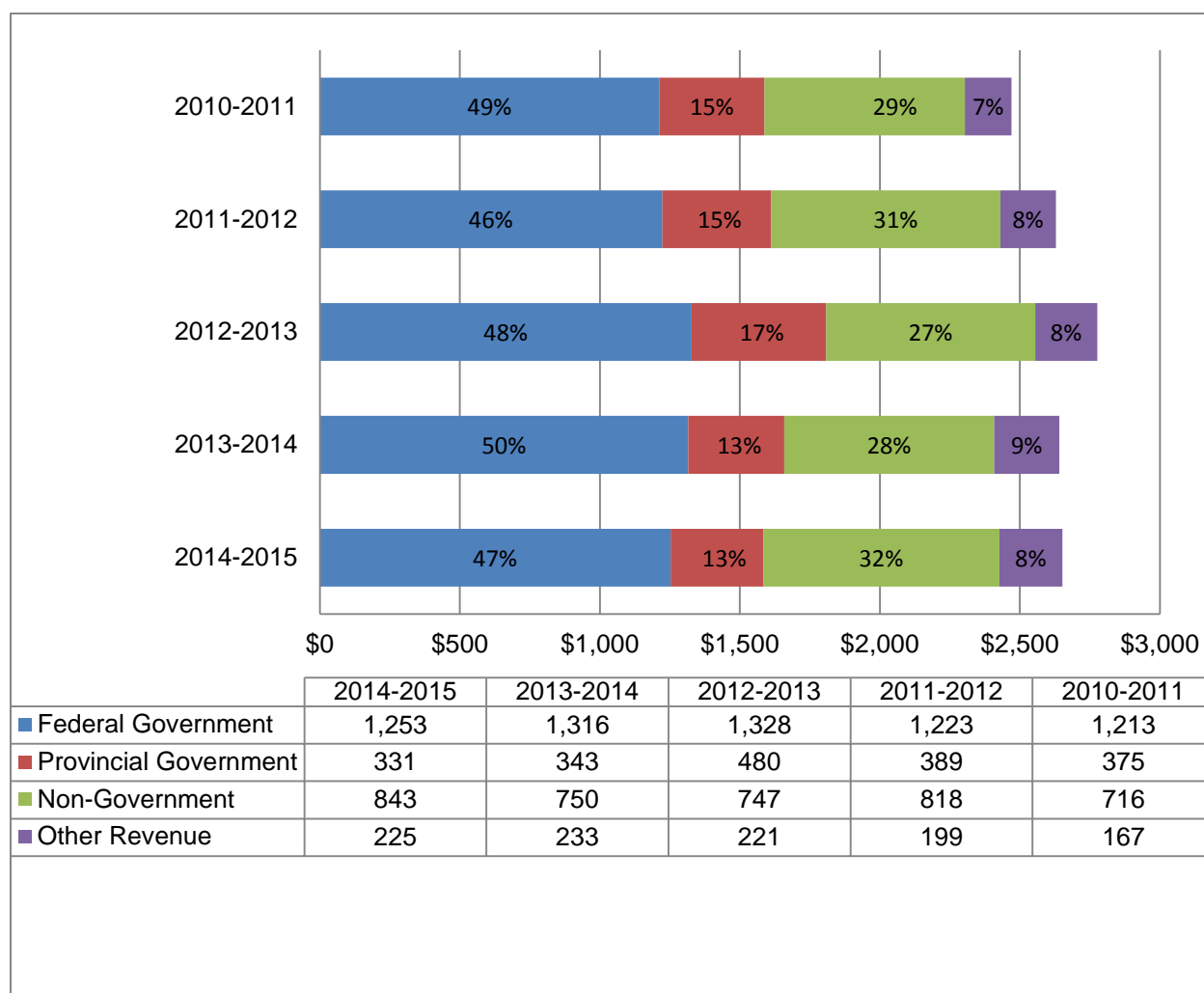


Sponsored Research Revenue

Chart 6 presents the major sources of revenue accounted for in the Sponsored Research Fund in actual dollars, and as a percentage of the total over five years (2010-2011 to 2014-2015). Almost two-thirds of all sponsored research funding came from the federal and provincial governments. In 2014-2015, federal funding outweighed provincial funding by almost 4 to 1. In 2014-2015, almost half of the sponsored research is funded by the federal government, with a majority of the funding coming from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

Almost one third of sponsored research was funded by non-government or industry, making this the second largest source of research funding. In many instances, industry and governments partner to fund strategic research programs. For a detailed list of federal grants, refer to [Table 10 of the COFO Financial Report of Ontario Universities](#). For a detailed list of provincial grants, refer to [Table 12 and 12a of the COFO Financial Report of Ontario Universities](#).

CHART 6: Sponsored Research Revenue by Source – (\$millions)



Enrolment

Chart 7 presents the undergraduate and graduate full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolment data over the five-year period (2010-2011 to 2014-2015). During this period, undergraduate and graduate FTE enrolment growth increased by 7 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. Growth in undergraduate enrolments is projected to slow down over the next few years as a result of demographic changes affecting the numbers of young adults in Ontario. Graduate growth over the last five years reflects the priority of both the Ontario government and Ontario universities to increase graduate enrolment. Graduate enrolment growth will contribute highly skilled personnel to Ontario's labour market, help advance the government's current research agenda and, in both these ways, improve the province's competitiveness in a global economy.

The Ontario government made a commitment in the 2011 Ontario Budget to fund an increase of 60,000 new spaces in postsecondary education sector to 2015-2016. MTCU indicated that the university share of the 60,000 spaces is expected to be 41,000 spaces (including both undergraduate and graduate spaces).

CHART 7: Enrolment Data (FTEs)

