**Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon**

**Meeting Summary | January 14, 2022**

The 2021–2022 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in the Miller Room (107) of the EMU at 8:30 a.m. on January 14, 2022. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents discussed during the meeting are available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/updates).

**Attending**: Krista Borg, Isaiah Boyd (remote), Jim Brooks, Josh Buetow (remote), Pamanee Chaiwat (remote), Robin Clement, Angela Davis (remote), Sorin Dragoiu (guest, remote), Brian Fox (guest), Ellen Grant (guest, remote), Brent Harrison (guest), Patricia Hersh, Saul Hubbard (guest, remote), Kimberly Johnson (remote), Stuart Laing (remote), Aaron Lewis, Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), JP Monroe, Gabe Paquette, Phil Scher, Shreya Silori (remote), Kathie Stanley (remote), Gina Thompson, Laurie Woodward (guest, remote).

**Staff**: Debbie Sharp (Office of the VPFA)

**Introductions**. Co-chair Kevin Marbury, vice president for student life, welcomed the group and asked people to introduce themselves.

**Debrief of the student forum**. Marbury invited feedback on the January 11 student tuition forum from members of the group who participated. Co-chair Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration and CFO, noted that the forum presentation was shorter than in previous years and focused primarily on the FY23 cost drivers, administratively controlled mandatory fees, and the Guaranteed Tuition program. Group members commented that they liked the content and shorter presentation because it allowed more time for discussion. However, people suggested it would be helpful to spend a few more minutes next time talking about the structure of the overall university budget (e.g., E&G funds vs. auxiliary operations). The group also noted that, even with the remote format of the forum, the participants were very engaged and many stayed the full hour. TFAB co-chairs thanked the ASUO and TFAB members for their participation and work to host the forum.

The forum presentation is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/sites/tuition2.uoregon.edu/files/2022-01/student-tuition-forum-presentation_1-11-22.pdf).

**Student Union fee proposal**. Marbury noted the efforts by the leadership of the Erb Memorial Union in putting the proposal together. He explained that they are proposing a fee that is 4.59% higher than the previous cohort year for the new, incoming undergraduate student cohort, noting that these fee rates would then be locked for five years as part of the [Oregon Tuition Guarantee](https://financialaid.uoregon.edu/oregon-guarantee). The proposal includes an increase of 3.13% for graduate students and continuing undergraduate students who started before summer 2020. Marbury noted that in addition to wage increases for employees—including minimum wages for student employees—there have been other budget pressures stemming from lower than anticipated enrollment and reduced non-fee revenue as a result of fewer room reservations during the pandemic.

The group asked about fee-charging programs associated with the Student Union, including the Outdoor Program and Craft Center. The group also discussed the labor market challenges faced by the Student Union, which is losing employees to higher-paying jobs and facing the same wage and labor pressures as the rest of the university and wider labor market. The proposal is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/2022-rec-and-union-fee-presentation-tfab).

**PE and Rec fee proposal**. Thanking PE and Rec leadership for their efforts in creating the 2022-23 proposal, Marbury shared that the Department of Physical Education and Recreation is proposing a fee that is 4.14% higher for the new, incoming undergraduate students starting in fall 2022. He explained that PE and Rec is proposing a 2022-23 fee increase of 2.89% for all graduate students and continuing undergraduate students who started before summer 2020. Marbury noted that employees had received cost of living allowance (COLA) increases and that minimum wages would increase in July, which would primarily affect the recreation center’s large student employee labor force. These increases to labor costs, together with lower than anticipated enrollment and a lack of revenue from conferences, faculty/staff/community memberships, and locker rentals necessitate the fee increase for 2022-23.

TFAB members discussed wider community memberships at the recreation center as a potential source of revenue. They also discussed increased labor costs for classified staff (including salary selectives, increases to minimum wages, steps increases and COLAs), which have a large effect on the recreation center budget. The proposal is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/2022-rec-and-union-fee-presentation-tfab).

**Graduate tuition proposals**. Moffitt introduced the topic of graduate tuition, explaining that each year, schools and colleges put their graduate tuition rate proposals together based on the market rates and pricing relevant to their specific degrees, as well as their own budget situation. Each area also provides information on their student consultation process. JP Monroe, director of Institutional Research, explained that he captures the information by school, college, and tuition program and then provides a summary sheet for the Tuition and Fee Advisory Board. He noted that there are a number of programs with no increases proposed for 2022-23 and some with proposed increases ranging from 0.7% to 3.1%. Monroe explained that the highest proposed graduate tuition increases for FY2023 are from the School of Law, which provided information on their student consultation process and their benchmarking with peer institutions. He noted that the School of Law would be presenting their proposal to TFAB the following week.

Monroe shared a [memo](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/sites/tuition2.uoregon.edu/files/2022-01/spd-tuition_amendment-memo_december-2021.pdf) and [proposal](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/sports-product-design-proposal) from the College of Design Sports Product Design (SPD) MS program, which proposes officially amending their tuition model to a flat fee structure. Moffitt and Monroe explained that as the program has a standard full-time curriculum, it has been essentially operating on a flat rate basis already.

TFAB members discussed other graduate programs operating on a flat fee structure and any potential impact on students resulting from the College of Design proposal. As there are no part-time students, the group understood there would be no price increase for students if the flat rate were formally adopted. The group discussed the way that graduate programs compare the market rates and prices of competitor programs; they also noted that this year’s negotiated salary increases are some of the largest in recent years. The graduate tuition summary is available [online.](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/2022-23-graduate-tuition-summary)

**Undergraduate tuition**. Moffitt provided some updates on undergraduate tuition, noting that updated cost driver estimates are $20.1 million. She also shared that preliminary data for winter enrollment was strong but advised that these figures would not be final for a few more weeks, as students are still able to drop classes and secure partial tuition refunds. Moffitt noted that the group would need to discuss enrollment trends, particularly trends for international and transfer recruitment, as part of considerations for recommending undergraduate tuition rates for 2022-23 (the 2022 tuition cohort). The updated FY23 cost drivers are available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/sites/tuition2.uoregon.edu/files/2022-01/updated-cost-drivers-fy23_jan2022.pdf).

**Adjournment**. The meeting adjourned at 09:28 a.m.