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

**Meeting Summary | November 17, 2021**

The 2021–2022 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in the Miller Room (107) of the EMU at 8:15 a.m. on November 17, 2021. 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, Jim Brooks, Josh Buetow, Robin Clement, Bill Harbaugh (guest), Patricia Hersh, Stuart Laing, Aaron Lewis, Kevin Marbury, Jamie Moffitt, JP Monroe, Brady Nittmann (guest), Sarah Nutter, Gabe Paquette, Shreya Silori (remote), Kathie Stanley (remote), Gina Thompson

**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. He then noted that the meeting packet included an overview of common TFAB acronyms and concepts. This document is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/tfab-acronyms-phrases-process).

**Cost drivers**.Co-chair Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration and CFO, shared the major Education and General Fund cost drivers updated for fiscal year 2023. She explained that the total projected cost increases for FY2023 are $19 million, when considering salary and other payroll expenses for faculty, staff, and graduate employees, medical costs, institutional expenses, strategic investments, and a minimum wage increase. She noted that these cost drivers do not include every single increased cost for next year (which would be very difficult to project given the decentralized nature of business operations at the university), but instead simply comprise the major costs that will increase across the institution. Moffitt noted that the next large increase for the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) is likely to be in FY2024. The group discussed the potential impacts of high inflation and how the university should consider this risk when thinking about tuition rate increases. The updated cost driver information for FY2023 is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/sites/tuition2.uoregon.edu/files/2021-11/final-fy23-cost-drivers-11-17-21.pdf).

**Cost management plan.** Moffittshared a document showing how the governing board and university administration are managing costs on an ongoing basis. She noted that they try to keep costs as low as possible, detailing key ways the Board of Trustees (BOT) and university leadership regularly review projected expenditures, financial projections, benchmarking information, long-term financial scenarios, and all university costs.

The group discussed state-mandated costs such as PERS and PEBB (Public Employees Benefits Board), and whether there had been efforts to explore alternative health insurance options. The cost management plan is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/cost-management-plannov2021).

**Long-term projections**. Moffitt shared long-term projections for the Education and General (E&G) fund, which were presented to the Board of Trustees in September 2021. She explained that the information contains a range of scenarios based on three different sets of assumptions about the guaranteed tuition rate of incoming cohorts of first-year undergraduate students. Moffitt further explained that each set of scenarios includes a base case, an upside scenario, and a downside scenario that vary depending on initial first-year enrollment, and disenrollment of students based on COVID requirements.

The group discussed enrollment trends, the impact of one-time federal funds earmarked for Covid-related costs or one-time lost revenue (e.g., tuition revenue losses), potential impacts of inflation on state appropriations, and the process for gauging new student numbers. The long-term projections document is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/sites/tuition2.uoregon.edu/files/2021-11/final-presentation-memo-to-board-re-long-term-projections-9-17-21.pdf).

**Undergraduate tuition calculator**. Moffitt shared a draft version of a tuition calculator designed to help the group work through different scenarios for setting undergraduate tuition based on different assumptions about tuition rate increases and enrollment numbers. She urged the group to become familiar with the calculator in coming weeks and to alert the co-chairs to any issues or questions ahead of winter term when the group meets again to review proposals from across the university and discuss undergraduate tuition.

**Planning for student forum**. Marbury led the group through a discussion on the planned January student forum on tuition, explaining that the format has traditionally been in person, except for 2020 when it was held remotely. The group discussed the importance of giving students an opportunity to provide input on the topic of tuition, the size of different forums that occurred last year, and whether to host the event in person or virtually.

**Adjournment**. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.