

Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon Meeting Summary | November 20, 2020

The 2020–2021 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met virtually at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, November 20, 2020. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents discussed during the meeting are available [online](#).

Attending: Melynn Bates, Lara Grant, Reina Harwood (guest), Patricia Hersh, Kay Jarvis (guest), Stuart Laing, Rocco Luiere (guest), Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), Juan-Carlos Molleda, JP Monroe, Doneka Scott, Aidan Short, Conrad Sproul, Kathie Stanley, Edna Ventura, Harry Wonham, Janet Woodruff-Borden

Staff: Debbie Sharp (Office of the VPFA)

Introductions. Co-chair Kevin Marbury, vice president for student life, welcomed the group and invited participants who were not present at previous meetings to introduce themselves.

Cost Drivers Analysis. Co-chair Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration and CFO, discussed the updated figures for major Education and General (E&G) fund cost drivers for FY22. She reminded the group that about 80% of the budget is invested in faculty and staff, and that the bargaining agreements negotiated with the five labor unions on campus specify salary increases for most employees. Other cost drivers discussed include medical costs, retirement costs, institutional expenses, strategic investments, and an increase to the Oregon minimum wage, which impacts student positions. Moffitt explained that the projected cost driver increase for FY22 is anticipated at under 2%, which is one of the lowest increases ever seen. This is primarily due to the fact that due to current budget challenges there will not be any annual salary increases for faculty or officers of administration (OAs) this year. The group asked questions about allocations for strategic investments, past cost drivers, blended OPE (Other Personnel Expenses), and projected future costs for PERS (Public Employees Retirement System). Cost driver presentation slides are available [online](#).

Cost Management Plan. Moffitt talked the group through a cost management overview document, which shows the plan for how the governing board and the UO administration are managing costs on an ongoing basis. The document shows the institution's annual steps for tracking and managing costs, keeping them as low as possible. The plan is available [online](#).

Undergraduate Tuition Calculator. Rocco Luiere, assistant vice provost for budget and strategy, shared a draft version of an undergraduate tuition calculator, which is a tool that pulls relevant information into one place to help understand how different potential tuition rates, as well as key assumptions about enrollment and state appropriation, affect the E&G fund budget. The information includes projected cost increases, expected tuition revenue from current students, and varying tuition rates for the incoming FY22 undergraduate cohort, as well as assumptions about state appropriations, enrollment, and Covid-rated savings. As this tool was rebuilt due to the transition to a guaranteed tuition program, Moffitt asked TFAB members to enter various

assumptions and tuition rates to test out the draft calculator before the group starts using a final version to inform discussions during winter term. The group discussed the uncertainty inherent in state appropriations, how enrollment forecast models account for students who deferred entry to UO this year, and how TFAB has used similar tools in the past.

Planning for Winter Tuition Forum. Marbury talked about the winter tuition forum, which is usually held in early January to help TFAB members learn about student concerns and ideas around tuition. He noted that the 2021 tuition forum will probably be online, and asked the group for input on the best way to make sure participants understand key budget information before breaking into small groups to discuss student concerns, questions, and ideas. The group discussed whether the forum should be a single event or multiple meetings, attendance levels at past forums, and how best to facilitate dialogue on tuition.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.